

# Remember the Ludlow Massacre!

By Max Shachtman

THE mining towns of Colorado are again being divided into two armed camps. In one are assembled the Rockefeller corporation, the mine operators, their governor and judges, their gunmen and troops. In the other are the striking miners.

However short may be their memories, the miners can remember another pair of armed camps in Colorado thirteen years ago. The workers had struck for recognition of their union, for improved conditions, better pay, the abolition of the vicious company store and scrip system. The benevolent teacher of Sunday schools, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., refused to grant the small demands of the strikers. In the mining camp of Ludlow, hundreds of them with their wives and children were forced to put up a tent colony.

The national guard had been called in, under the infamous Major Pat Hamrock. They were generously treated by Mr. Rockefeller's Colorado Fuel and Iron company. The company's mine guards and scabs were in the National Guard ranks. The C. F. and I. machine gun in Ludlow was used by the Guard. The Guard's officers rode around in the company's armored automobile.

On April 20, 1914, Hamrock called to his tent Louis Tikas, one of the leaders of the Greek miners, who formed one of the most substantial parts of the miners' colony. Tikas met Hamrock at the train depot, and the Major demanded the release of one of the men held in the colony. Tikas consented.

He returned to the tent colony, waving a handkerchief, and while he was running towards his com-

rades, two bombs were fired by the Guards. All the men were immediately gathered together with whatever rifles and ammunition they had, and made for the nearby hills, so that the 1,000 women and children who remained would not be fired upon by the uniformed thugs.

But the Guards did not follow the men into the hills. They trained their machine guns and rifles upon the colony. With fiendish mercilessness

they fired round after round into the defenseless tents. The machine guns were kept going almost from morning till evening. The very brave and noble soldiers were teaching the damned foreigners their bloody lesson.

"They got the machine guns set better and at better range, for it was terrible how these bullets came in there," the camp's nurse, Mrs. Jolly, said later. "The dogs and chickens and everything else that moved were shot. Between 5 and 6 o'clock they set fire to our tents. When they set fire to our tents we decided that

we would go from cave to cave as fast as we could. They could see us going through, and we had to dodge their bullets. We were going from cave to cave getting the women and children together, and let them out, and took chances on being shot. We had about 50 together when we saw one little Italian woman, but she was simply grieving herself to death. She is not sane, I don't think. She is killed, they say. Her three children were killed out there. We know and her three children were in the cave. We could not understand how they got the three and herself there, but we afterwards moved into the hills. So Louis Tikas told me that if we would get them together and lead them down the arroya—we didn't know that there was any men there—we thought it was she and her children. While he was on his way—the screams; I believe you could hear them for a mile. The screams of the women and children—they were simply awful. When he was on his way to the cave they captured him and took him prisoner. After they took him prisoner, they couldn't decide for a little while how they wanted to kill him. Some contended to shoot him; some contended that he should be hanged. Finally, Lieut. Linderfeldt went up and hit him over the head with a rifle, broke the butt of his gun over his head, and then made the remark he had spoiled a good gun on him. They stepped on his face. We have a photograph.... it shows



The Ludlow Monument built by the U. M. W. of A.

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plain the prints of the heel in his face. After he fell, he was shot four times in the back. There were three of our men captured and murdered while they were trying to rescue those women and children.

Mrs. Snyder... threw the cellar door open and hollered, 'For God's sake, come and help me. I have a dead boy in here.' They made a reply that it was too damned bad they were not all dead."

There were thirty-four men, women and children murdered in Ludlow on that day, and many of them were cremated as a result of the brutal order by Hamrock that the tents be burned despite his knowledge that they were occupied by the families of the strikers.

Hamrock is still living. The murderers are free. Louis Scherf, one of the men under Hamrock at that time, is now in charge of men who just killed five of the strikers at the Columbine mine. The Rockefellers and their thugs want to choke this strike with its own blood too. The first shots have already been fired, and workers have been murdered almost in the shadow of the Ludlow monument that was erected by the United Mine Workers Of America.

The whole country must resound with the bitterest condemnation

this crime, and the crimes that are to follow unless labor is vigilant. Only the solidarity of the working class can bring to an end the reign of terror and death, and victory to the embattled strikers.

Remember the massacre at Ludlow! The movement of solidarity must be swiftly built.

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