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## *Down by the Rio Grande*

FORT SAM HOUSTON, a complex of stone barracks, vast parade grounds, and a Quartermaster Depot (known as the “Quadrangle”), was built on 1,000 acres of land donated by the city of San Antonio in the 1870s. It was an army post that might have been designed by Rudyard Kipling and set in the hill country of India. Both infantry and cavalry troops were garrisoned at the post through Indian campaigns and the “splendid little war” with Spain. In February, because of unsettled conditions along the U.S.–Mexican border, President Taft had ordered mobilization of a provisional division under the command of Major General W. H. Carter. Virtually every man in the division joined the crowd of civilians lining the lower post field (the Polo Grounds) to witness the arrival of Calbraith Perry Rodgers, the ocean-to-ocean flier.

They assembled first on Friday, October 20, with Secretary of War Stimson and Major General Wood as special welcoming officials. Several hours passed before word was received that Rodgers had crashed at the village of Kyle. The second gathering began at ten o’clock Sunday morning. Discomfort and suspicions of another disappointment were forgotten