



O.K. CORRAL

EDWARD DROBINSKI

O.K. CORRAL

By

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1 - Intro and the Wallace Diary of Doc Holliday

The gunfight at the OK Corral, the Wild West's most famous gun battle, lasted just thirty seconds with approximately thirty shots being fired.

Yet, that thirty seconds has resulted in numerous and uncountable following accounts, editing, mythological posturing, entertainment oriented productions, and deflating "studies" provided by modern historical "experts" who were invariably not there and thereby had not lived in the culture of the Wild West, yet would have you defer to their "learned" editorials, the volume of which can fill the cyber space allocated to a moderately popular, twenty-first century purveyor of chat, truth, and misinformation. If that is what you seek you are in the wrong place.



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While other accounts are referred to in an attempt to convey the full story, that of Doc Holliday is most prevalent herein. He just happened to be there and didn't seem to have been "confused" by the "benefits" of favorable publicity. The fast and deadly accurate man had a girl and a gun.

The gunfight occurred on October 26th, 1881, killing Tom McLaury, Frank McLaury and Billy Clanton. Virgil Earp, Morgan Earp, and Doc Holliday were wounded. Wyatt Earp was not injured in the shootout.

After the fight the bodies of the dead outlaws were displayed in a window at a local undertakers with the sign; "Murdered in the Streets of Tombstone." Contrary to what has been depicted in movies about the gunfight at the OK Corral, the Cowboys did have some popular support, and the Earps and Holliday were not universally liked. Several hundred people joined the funeral procession for the dead Cowboys, and as many as 2,000 people watched from the streets.

The gunfight may have been the popular highpoint of the conflict between the Cowboys and the Earps, but the events attendant to this story lasted many more months.

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Despite many months of Cowboy threats, Ike Clanton was able to file murder charges against the Earps following the gun battle. Virgil and Morgan could not leave home due to the injuries they sustained in the gunfight, so Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday were the only two to be arrested and they spent 16 days in jail during the hearing.

The hearing ended on November 30th with Justice Spicer concluding that the Earps and Holliday had not broken the law in the events leading up to, or during, the fight.

In December 1881 Ike Clanton again filed murder charges against the Earps, this time in nearby Contention City. Fearing an ambush, a large posse escorted the Earps to the court appearance. The charges were quickly dropped.

On December 14th, 1881 Justice Spicer received anonymous death threats and was ordered to leave town. Tombstone mayor John Clum, who had been a supporter of the Earps, was the target of a murder attempt.

On December 28th, 1881 Virgil Earp was ambushed and hit in the left arm with a shotgun blast. The wound was serious, and Virgil would

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have to carry the arm in a sling for the rest of his life. The following day, Wyatt Earp was appointed as Deputy US Marshal for eastern Pima County.

On January 25th, 1882 Wyatt led a posse which included his pal, Doc Holliday, to Charleston to search for Virgil's assailants. Upon returning to Tombstone, they found that several Cowboys had turned themselves in, but for lesser charges, apparently in an attempt to escape the posse's wrath. The charges against the outlaws were dropped due to lack of evidence.

On February 9th, 1882 relentless Ike Clanton once again filed charges against the Earps in Contention City. The Earps travelled to Contention City under heavy guard for fear of a Cowboy ambush. The judge refused to indict the Earps without new evidence.

Virgil Earp was no longer drawing a salary and for increased security the brothers and their wives had been living at the Cosmopolitan Hotel since the gunfight. Hard up for cash, Wyatt took out a mortgage on his house and ultimately lost the house when he defaulted on the loan.

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On March 18th, 1882, while playing a late round of billiards, shots were fired through the billiard hall window, and Morgan Earp was struck in the spine by the gunfire. Morgan died from his wounds less than an hour later. Cowboy Pete Spence, who was suspected in Morgan's murder, turned himself into Sheriff Behan presumably so he could be protected in Behan's jail. Charges against Spence were dropped due to lack of evidence. Doc Holliday would later say that he considered Behan responsible for the assassination of Morgan Earp.

On March 21st, 1882 Wyatt received information that Frank Stilwell, Ike Clanton, and two other cowboys were watching the passenger trains in Tucson intending to kill Virgil Earp, who was leaving Tombstone for the family home in California. Wyatt formed a posse with Warren Earp, Doc Holliday, "Turkey Creek" Jack Johnson, and Sherman McMaster to accompany Virgil and Allie, Virgil's wife, to the rail head in Benson. They boarded the train to Tucson along with Virgil and his wife, armed with pistols, rifles and shotguns.

Upon their arrival in Tucson, the Earp posse spotted Stilwell and other Cowboys. "Almost the first men we met on the platform there were

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Stilwell and his friends, armed to the teeth,” Virgil later told the “San Francisco Examiner.” “Upon seeing the posse, the Cowboys initially withdrew. Returning later to finish the job, the Cowboys were met with gunfire from the Earp posse, and Frank Stilwell was killed.”

The Tucson sheriff issued arrest warrants for Wyatt and Warren Earp, Holliday, McMaster, and Johnson for the death of Frank Stilwell.

Following the events in Tuscon, Wyatt concluded that they will get no justice from the courts, and that it was time to take the law into their own hands. It turned out that Wyatt was not going to be going it alone though, as some Federal assistance became available when attitudes started to sour about the lawlessness of the Tombstone area.

With funds available to hire more men, Wyatt and Warren Earp, Doc Holliday, Johnson and McMaster were now joined by “Texas Jack” Vermillion, Dan Tipton, Charlie Smith, Fred Dodge, Johnny Green, and Louis Cooley to form a federal posse under Wyatt’s authority as the Deputy US Marshal.

On March 22nd, 1882 County sheriff Behan formed his own posse consisting of many deputized cowboys, including Johnny Ringo,

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Phineas Clanton, Johnny Barnes and about 18 more men. The posse rode out to arrest Wyatt and his men for the murder of Frank Stilwell.

That morning, Earp's posse located and killed wanted Cowboy "Indian Charlie" Cruz.

On March 24th, 1882 the Earp Posse unknowingly rode into a Cowboy camp at Iron Springs. The Earp posse had six men at this encounter, to the Cowboy's nine. Both parties were surprised, and gunfire started almost immediately. Curly Bill Brocius shot at Wyatt but missed. Wyatt returned the fire and hit Bill in the chest with a shotgun blast, killing him instantly. During the Earp Vendetta Ride, Earp borrowed a short, 22 inch, 10 gauge, double barrel percussion shotgun from Fred Dodge, which he had used to kill Brocius. Some Cowboy confederates disputed Brocius' death, and Dodge interviewed three participants afterward, confirming that Earp had killed Brocius.

In the ensuing chaos, members of Earp's posse were pinned down by Cowboy gunfire. Wyatt, still standing in the middle of the fight, without cover, shot Johnny Barnes in the chest and Milt Hicks in the arm.

Wyatt was then able to get back on his horse and retreat. Incredibly,

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he was shot seven times through his clothes, but none of the shots injured him.

On March 25th, 1882 Sheriff Behan again rode out with a 25 man posse in pursuit of Earp's posse. He pursued the Earps for ten days, but never found them.

The true story Wyatt Earp's vendetta ride is arguably as spectacular or more so than movies like "Tombstone" have portrayed. It is said that after killing "Indian Charlie" Cruz, and Curly Bill Brocius, it seems that Wyatt may have considered his brothers' avenged, or maybe he was well aware of how lucky they had all been over the last few days.

However, things were obviously not yet over, as Cowboy leader Johnny Ringo was still around, and he had stupidly incurred the wrath and disdain of Doc Holliday

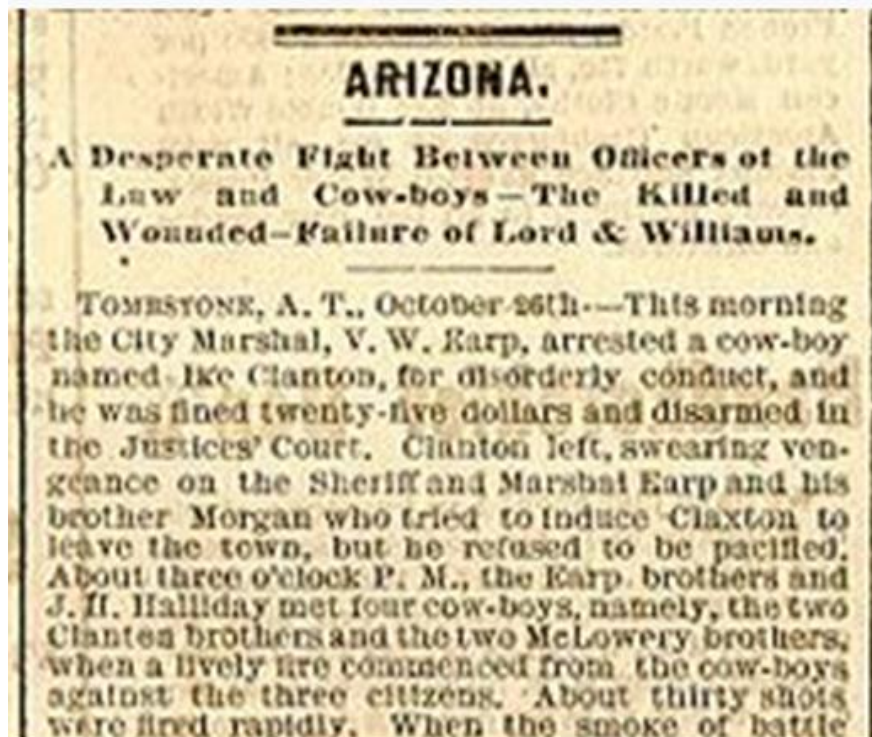
Whatever the reason, the Earp Posse left Arizona and hid out in New Mexico for several weeks. Near the end of April, the posse split up, and Wyatt and Doc left the lawless territory behind permanently.

..... Or so they are said to have thought.

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On October 26th, 1881 in Tombstone, Arizona Territory, US, the most famous western gun fight happened. Movies, books, and newspaper articles about it proliferate, and they disagree or merely gloss over the cause, often ignore the aftermath, and indeed quibble over the fight itself. One simple telling example of the fundamentally differing accounts is that the local Tombstone newspapers of the time told different stories. "The Tombstone Epitaph" was loyal to the business owners, the Earps, and Doc Holliday; and thereby found them to be merely protecting the people of Tombstone and their laws.

The Tombstone Epitaph



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The “Tombstone Nugget” favored rural interests and the Cowboys and consequently found the lawmen to have overstepped their bounds. In that time and region, the term cowboy generally meant an outlaw. Legitimate cowmen were instead referred to as cattle herders or ranchers. The details printed at the time by the two “primary” sources didn’t even agree concerning arms carried and who shot first. It may be difficult to believe for the twenty-first century world which ignores history, but fake news was not invented or perfected after the post-truth, twenty-first century creation of the internet’s social media. The battle which ensued and has popularly come to be known as “The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral” or “The Shootout at the O.K. Corral,” was given those names of the event many years later.

This rendition of the O.K. Corral story is the result of having chanced upon a diary kept by a departed freelance newspaperman, while he was staying at “Hotel Congress,” a hotel in old town Tucson at 311 East Congress Street, built in 1919.

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Dave Wallace' old diary was just sitting there on the lobby table of the old hotel at the center of some sofas and chairs. That it seemingly got little attention from others, as discerned by its condition being much less dog eared than Stuart Lake's "Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshal," resulted in it somewhat contradictorily, though not really, drawing mine. According to the diary, Wallace interviewed Doc Holliday extensively in 1882, while Holliday was jailed in Gunnison, Colorado. According to Wallace, the usually discreet and personal evidence averse Holliday was quite loquacious, apparently wanting to finally set the record straight about who did what, much of that previously

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conveniently left elsewhere, where it was greedily latched onto by people with ambitions in the entertainment field.



Doc Holliday

Doc was actually arrested in Denver by a swindler and bounty hunter named Perry Mallon, who thought he had ingratiated himself to Doc by making up the story that some bad guys were coming to town to kill

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him, while thanking him for having saved his life years prior.

Mistakenly thinking that he had gotten Doc's guard down, Mallon got the drop on him anyway and had him jailed.

Therefore you might say that this book is Holliday-centric by way of Wallace by way of Mallon. However if that is your thought, also realize concurrently that all communications arise from one or more particular points of view, none necessarily bearing any semblance of reality. Supplementing that Holliday-Wallace-Mallon piece of work with selected facts available which stand well to reason, this compilation is arguably the most reasonably biased Holliday-centric account of what happened in Tombstone on October 26th, 1881 you will find. It seems uncanny how this 141 year old story parallels what goes on in "sophisticated" 2022; especially with regard to politically aligned nineteenth century newspapers reporting different stories and "facts," the participants telling different stories, the overt and clandestine government affiliation of some of the parties, the "witnesses" seeming to have "seen" different movies, the government's inability or unwillingness to resolve the "issues" brought up, and they being left to the courts if willing and common sense to try to settle. The only thing

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