



WHO IS **PETRA HERRERA?**

THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION'S UNRECOGNISED GENERAL



What does it take to disguise yourself as a man and rise to command an army?

- 01** In 1910, Mexico revolted against Porfirio Díaz's three-decade authoritarian regime, sparking mass armed uprising across the nation.
- 02** Thousands joined revolutionary forces, including thousands of women called "soldaderas".
- 03** Petra Herrera rose to lead hundreds of soldiers, specialising in sabotage and military strategy.



01 . CONTEXT

MEXICO'S FIGHT FOR CHANGE

In 1910, Mexico revolted against Porfirio Díaz's three-decade authoritarian regime. Vast social inequality and wealth concentration sparked mass armed uprising across the nation. Thousands joined revolutionary forces, including thousands of women called *"soldaderas"*. Their participation fundamentally reshaped Mexico's military landscape.

02 . BIOGRAPHY

FROM CIVILIAN TO SOLDIER

Born in 1887 in northern Mexico, Petra Herrera joined revolutionary troops in her twenties. Cutting her hair and binding her chest, she enlisted as *"Pedro"* under Pancho Villa's command. Her strategic brilliance soon distinguished her among thousands of combatants.



03 . NOTABLE FACT N°1

MILITARY COMMAND & SABOTAGE EXPERTISE

Petra rapidly rose to leadership, commanding up to 300 soldiers. She specialised in daring sabotage operations, particularly bridge destruction. Her tactical precision earned her recognition as a formidable military strategist within Villa's revolutionary forces.



04 . NOTABLE FACT N°2

FORMATION OF AN ALL-FEMALE UNIT

After revealing her identity, Petra demanded a general's rank from Villa. Refused, she departed to form a 400-strong all-female combat unit. During the pivotal 1914 Battle of Torreón, witness Cosme Mendoza Chavira attested: *"She took Torreón and extinguished its lights."*

05 . NOTABLE FACT N°3

LEGACY DENIED, IMPACT ETERNAL

Revolutionary songs celebrated Petra's exploits, yet Villa denied her recognition. In 1917, she allied with Carranza and was promoted colonel. Her later fate remains contested: some claim espionage work; others speak of leading 25,000 *soldaderas* in secret camps.

06 . QUOTE

"I am a woman and I will continue to serve as a soldier."

PETRA HERRERA

