

# Navy Tales

By a Lieutenant in the United States Navy

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## RED TAPE

RED TAPE was once the means of tying up official documents. Nowadays red tape is the means of tying up most anything from gumshoes to governments. Red tape may draw a line against the errors of slipshod workers. More often, however, it fetters efficiency and makes a hangman's noose for action.

Once in the fleet there was a captain who desired an especially convenient form of waste basket. He had it made on requisition by the navy yard. Unfortunately just as it arrived aboard he was ordered to another ship. In the confusion of departure the waste basket remained behind.

At the end of the quarter the captain's yeoman (clerk) made an invoice as per "regs." Everything checked up O. K. but the basket. It was missing, and it could not be "expended" because it was an item of some value and rather new.

A letter of inquiry was sent to the old ship stating the case and requesting that the article be forwarded. After some weeks the letter was returned with several sheets of endorsements attached. It turned out that the navigator had taken the basket with him when he went to command a Pacific coast cruiser.

The navigator "respectfully stated" that his baggage had gone adrift, the basket with it. Whereupon a survey or investigation was ordered by the original owner. The yeoman prepared all papers in due form explaining the loss of the article and forwarded them to Washington.

These papers including six endorsements of explanation were sent out to the navigator. He smeared on a few more and mailed the packet back to his old ship. On arrival the batch was not fully understood. It was endorsed a few times more and boosted on to headquarters, who shot it back to the captain.

Briefly that packet made the circuit four and a half times. Each time it connected a few dozen more endorsements, remarks, comments, inquiries and respectful statements.

Finally the captain called in his yeoman. "Jones," he said, "if I find that blankety-blank waste basket batch of rot on my desk again I'm going to disarrange you to coal-passer. If I don't find it I'll rate you up to chief." Jones aye-ayed and beat it. He looked up the monthly difference in pay between his rate and that of chief. It was something like ten dollars. He went ashore and spent ten beans.

Next day the captain found under his desk a fine new waste basket. It was just like the one he'd lost. In the bottom of it was a pile of paper torn to bits. Red tape had been spilled in to a million pieces.

But suppose everybody started spilling.

## SLOP CHEST

MASTLESS battleships before long. A few years hence the last remnant of oldtime spars will be uprooted and laid in the navy yards to rot. Rigging has already gone. Upperworks are going. Elimination of the useless is the cry.

There is also metamorphosis. No, that's not a kind of bug. Metamorphosis is change, such as dough to flapjacks (not to dimes); mud to bricks; apes to men. Though the samples will not bear too keen philosophical scrutiny they serve to illustrate the way old naval customs have become so rooted in the service that they do not disappear even after centuries, and when the old Roman catapult has given way to hundred-ton breech loaders. They merely change.

On a long cruise the sailorman runs shy of clothing. His work suffers in proportion to his ill-clad condition. Skippers have recognized this maritime maxim by keeping a slop-chest. Aboard a tidy man-of-war any mess is known as "slops." Slop-chests hold a miscellaneous supply of seaman's clothing. Hence the name.

An account of the first slop-chest was chronicled in 450 B. C. It contained 1,000 garments, assorted in three sizes. The garments were exactly alike and cut to fit the stern-sheets of galley slaves. Ethnologists sometimes refer to them (the garments) as breech-clouts. The largest was a nautical cubit in circumference or nearly a life-size fathom.

Columbus gave us the next authentic account of slop-chests in 1492. He included leather boots, woven shirts, dirks, breeches, sea-bonnets and neckerchiefs. He makes no mention of wrist watches.

John Paul Jones turned the "slop-job" over to his supercargo or purser. However, he got his little rake-off at the end of the cruise. For it must be understood that 2,000 miles and a swath out fixes a pretty good price on necessary apparel.

Gum-boots were the greatest step after the Civil war. Old sea-dogs put them down as a sign that the navy was going to h—l. "The idea of a tar mind-tag wet feet!" Yet they daily turned to the chest for sewing gear, needles and thimbles, and the like.

Then the Twentieth Century broke like a typhoon over our world. A holo-

caust of progress swept away the relics of man's past. Mechanical genius was supreme. Only the charred stubble of original ideas remained. The slop-chest was one.

Now we have the "Clothing and Small Stores Room." In it our mechanical Jack may procure silk neckerchiefs, Sheffield steel knives, and hand-sewn shoes, not boots, but gloves for his feet. The captain makes no rake-off, and the purchase record is in quadruplicate. It's still the slop-chest, however, only different.

That is metamorphosis; which is sometimes better than liver pills for cleansing life.

## AIR CREDIT

THE world has conceded the genius of Wright and Curtiss, but only as individuals. In reality our national aeronautic prowess runs back sixty years and more.

When we contemplate the \$1,000,000,000 which has been suggested for the next aviation budget, and the plan of building 50,000 machines in one year it is a little difficult to understand the government's former attitude.

The "balloon idea" was brought to Washington in 1861 by Professor Lowe. He was a young inventor who started making artificial ice. He died only four years ago after a long life which was calculated to spite his enemies in the capitol. They had called him a lunatic when he proposed to fly over the Confederate lines and bring back information.

There was a rumor that the hostile army was about to attack. Young Lowe's balloon was used as a last resort. He ascended about 3,000 feet, drifted over the enemy batteries, and returned with what proved to be straight dope that Johnny Red had no intention of starting anything.

This exploit was such a feather in Lowe's bonnet that his pay was increased to \$10 a day. Which ruined him. For, though he made subsequent flights—or drifts, the "gross indecency of paying a common Prof. such a sum when men were dying for less," created a near-riot. As a compromise it was reduced to \$6. But his retirement soon followed. Sic semper the "elit."

The Union army then made its own "aerostats," as they were called. Regular reconnaissance work was carried out, but as the balloon was always captive the zone of inquiry was very narrow. Foreigners came over to investigate the wild rumors which had become rife in Europe.

The technique of this early aviation corps was very crude. Their gas bags were of rough cotton goods, oiled, and doubled-spliced at the seams. Inflation was achieved by means of hot air from a pine-knot fire. A heavy rope anchored the balloon. Several times this got foul of the operators on the ground and had to be cut. The observer landed when and where he could. Usually he drowned or else ate his supper in a Confederate prison camp.

## STREAMS

THE bridge is shrouded in impenetrable gloom. So is the officer-of-the-deck. Inky black is the blotch of a battleship ahead. Two shades blacker is the blotch of another in swift pursuit astern.

The fleet is steaming "darkened" in column.

A bell rings. The O. O. D. never takes his tense eyes from the rail. "Hello," shouts a quartermaster down the engineroom voice-tube. "Condenser temperatures show we've run out of the stream," comes the muffled report.

"U-m-m," grunts the O. O. D. as though bored. But he isn't. He knows the Gulf Stream has been left behind. The knowledge is as definite as a "Times Square" shouted by a subway guard.

Streams of ocean currents are the great rivers of the sea. Movement of the water is caused mostly by winds prevailing in one direction for long periods of time.

The Gulf Stream is 50 to 250 miles in width and flows at the leisurely pace of 3 to 5 miles an hour. It swings upward along the Florida coast, is deflected by Hatteras, and shoots a cool three thousand miles to Iceland and the British Isles. A southern branch strikes the "Belly of Europe," as the Bay of Biscay is awkwardly called. All these countries it warms.

But the American coast shivers in the chill of an arctic current. This frigid stream squirts from the mouth of Baffin bay and drenches with its berg-cooled spray the rocks of Labrador and Maine and the yellow Jersey sands.

If, as has been proposed, a mammoth breaker were built eastward from New Foundland shooting the northern current out, America would become tropical in climate while our English brethren built snow igloos.

In the Pacific a Japan current and one from Behring sea correspond to the warm and cold pair in the Atlantic. The Alaskan coast, like England, is warm.

Below the continental tips a great stream runs clean around the world. In the South Atlantic, South Pacific and Indian oceans are huge lazy whirlpools 3,000 miles in diameter caused by contrary currents.

# Crime in U. S. Beats Europe

Investigator Tells Why "Tolerant America" Is Plagued With Murders and Thefts.

## TASK OF POLICE MUCH HARDER

Neither the Police of London Nor Paris Would Be Able to Cope With Crime in New York or Chicago, Says Raymond B. Fosdick.

New York.—Tolerant American cities are overrun by criminals to a greater extent than metropolitan districts in Europe and neither the police of London nor of Paris would be able to cope with crime in this city or Chicago, according to Raymond B. Fosdick, who made public statistics compiled for the bureau of social hygiene.

"The police of an American city are faced with a task such as European police organizations have no knowledge of," said Mr. Fosdick in giving statistics from one part of his forthcoming work on "American Police Systems." "The metropolitan police force of London, with all its splendid efficiency, would be overwhelmed in New York, and the brigade de surete of Paris, with its ingenuity and mechanical equipment, would fall far below the level of its present achievement if it were confronted with the situation in Chicago."

Mr. Fosdick discusses the relation of heterogeneous population in America to the crime rate, and concludes that preponderance of crime in this country is augmented by unassimilated or poorly assimilated races.

## We Condone Violence.

"It must not be supposed, however, that our foreign and colored population is the sole cause of our excessive crime rate," continues Mr. Fosdick. "If the offenses of our foreign and colored races were stricken from the calculation our crime record would still greatly exceed the record of western Europe. With all its kindness and good nature the temper of our communities contains a strong strain of violence. We condone violence and shirk its punishment."

"As to the fact of our excessive criminality the statistics furnish startling evidence. London in 1916, with a population of 7,250,000, had nine premeditated murders. Chicago, one-third the size of London, in the same period had 103, nearly twelve times London's total. In 1918 Chicago had 14 more murders than England and Wales. In 1919 the number of murders in Chicago was almost exactly six times the number committed in London.

"In 1918 New York had six times more homicides than London, and exceeded the total homicides of England and Wales by 67. This contrast cannot be attributed to the peculiar conditions in London induced by the war. In each of the years from 1914 to 1918, inclusive, New York had more homicides than occurred in London during any three-year period previous to the outbreak of the war in 1914.

"Statistics of this kind could be multiplied at length. In the three-year

period 1916-18, inclusive, Glasgow had 88 homicides; Philadelphia, which is only a trifle larger, had during this same period 281. Liverpool and St. Louis are approximately the same size; in 1915 St. Louis had 11 times the number of homicides that Liverpool had, and in 1916 eight times the number.

## More Burglaries Here.

"Equally significant is the comparison of burglary statistics between Great Britain and the United States. In 1915, for example, New York city had approximately eight times as many burglaries as London had in the same period. In 1917 New York had four times as many burglaries as London. In 1918 the burglaries which the police reported in New York were approximately two and a half times those in London.

"While war conditions undoubtedly served to heighten this contrast they were by no means entirely responsible for it; in 1915 New York city had more burglaries than occurred in all England and Wales in 1911, 1912 or 1913. Chicago in 1916 had 532 more burglaries than London; in 1917, 3,459 more; in 1918, 806 more and in 1919, 2,146 more.

"Even more startling are the statistics of robbery. In each of the four years from 1915 to 1918, inclusive, New York city had from four to five times more robberies than occurred in all England and Wales in any one of the five years preceding the war.

Dickens often acted in private theatricals.

## RECORD TUNA FISH



This 325-pound tuna fish, caught off San Diego, Cal., is the largest ever taken in California waters. It is a yellowfin tuna; a variety seldom found so far North. Hook and line were used in catching it.

## Not a Houn' to Be Kicked Aroun'.

Bowling Green, Ky.—An automobile belonging to Ed Cantrill was the chief factor in a unique trade. John Harris owned an old mare and a surrey, also the best "possum" dog in Warren county. Cantrill gave his car for the horse and buggy and the privilege of hunting with the Harris hound during the coming season.

## TRIED TO FORCE WIFE ON RIVAL

Finally Sued for Heavy Damages, Alleging Alienation of Affections.

Trenton, N. J.—A remarkable love triangle in which the husband insisted that the "man in the case" either marry or give up forever the wife loved by each of them, was revealed in a \$100,000 alienation suit filed here by Charles B. Chisholm of Newark, N. J., against William C. Parker, society man of Morristown, N. J.

One of the unusual features of the case, as set forth in the affidavits filed with the suit, was that the three principals held numerous conferences at which they discussed the "best way



"Take Her or Leave Her!"

discussed the situation with both, eventually giving to Parker this ultimatum: "Take her or leave her. You must do either one or the other or face a suit for alienation." Chisholm affirmed that Parker refused to take Mrs. Chisholm, saying that he must first educate his sons.

The plaintiff sets forth that the infatuation of the couple had its inception in the summer of 1919, when the Chisholms and the Parks occupied summer cottages at Culver's Lake, N. J. Chisholm says that he became firmly convinced that Parker really loved Mrs. Chisholm and that, following a conference, Parker promised to see no more of Mrs. Chisholm. Parker broke his promise, and the alienation suit followed.

## "WILD MAN" RIPS OFF WHEEL

Dashes Through Streets Dressed Only in Underwear and Is Finally Overpowered by Police.

New York.—Joseph Longobardi, thirty-one, of 64 McDougal street, was taken to Bellevue hospital for observation after he had raced through the streets for nearly a mile dressed only in his underclothing.

Hundreds of men and women on their way home from work saw Longobardi as he dashed through the streets from McDougal and Broome to Kenmare and Lafayette streets, where he was overpowered by three policemen and two detectives, flanked by half a dozen other men.

At Broome and Lafayette Longobardi tried to rip up a lamp post, and, failing, leaped at an automobile operated by Abraham Freundlich of 63 East Ninety-ninth street. Freundlich abandoned the machine, whereupon Longobardi broke the windows and windshield with his fists.

This did not seem to satisfy him so he leaped out of the machine, ran to the rear and by main strength tore one of the wheels off, badly twisting the axle in doing so.

## Sun Heats Acid and Blast Injures Two Men

Berkeley, Cal.—Two men were badly burned when a sixty-gallon field drum of citric acid, heated by the sun's rays, exploded in the Southern Pacific freight yards at Third street and University avenue. The men were standing beside the car upon which five drums were loaded. The force of the explosion was so great that both were knocked to the ground and the exploding drum was demolished and scattered in fragments over a radius of 100 yards. Peters and Medaglia were covered with the scalding acid.

## Finds Wife Starved to Death.

Seattle.—Returning to his home here, after an absence of a month preparing a new home in Bremerton, Wash., John A. Holmes discovered his wife, Mrs. Annie Holmes, sixty-four years old, dead of starvation. There was no food in the house, although Holmes declared he left money for his wife to live on.

# Prisoners of Reds Go Crazy

Many of Captives Returned to Germany Are Sent to Insane Asylums.

## BITTER TOWARD FATHERLAND

Curse Their Flag and Denounce Country for Not Exchanging Them—5,000 Remain in Russian Prison Camps.

Stettin, Germany.—Every contingent of German war prisoners arriving here from Russia contains a number of ragged, unshaven, haggard men who have been made insane by suffering during many months in Russian prison camps.

In three weeks the German government sent 200 of these men to insane asylums and sanitariums for treatment. A few have spells of violence and during these periods must be kept under guard, but the majority present a listless, woe-begone aspect. They look about with dull,

unseeing eyes, or sit quietly weeping, unconscious of the fact that they are home again.

The families and friends of the insane soldiers are allowed to greet them and to give them food and clothes before they are sent away for treatment.

## Curses His Own Flag.

Nearly all the prisoners exhibit the most intense bitterness not only toward Russia, but toward the German government as well. One of them, who had lost a leg and an arm, and who, it was learned, had been taken prisoner early in the war and had been confined in many Russian prison camps, shook his fist at a German flag when he arrived, and cursed his country, his people, and all other countries and peoples.

"To— with Germany!" he shouted. "That is not my flag and Germany is not my fatherland."

He then turned to the other prisoners and, pointing to his wounds, said:

"This is what Germany has done to me. This is what a kindly fatherland has permitted. Why didn't they exchange me? Because I have only one leg and one arm? I lost them fighting for Germany and all the thanks I've had for it were the rotten years in a Russian prison."

## Tell of Their Sufferings.

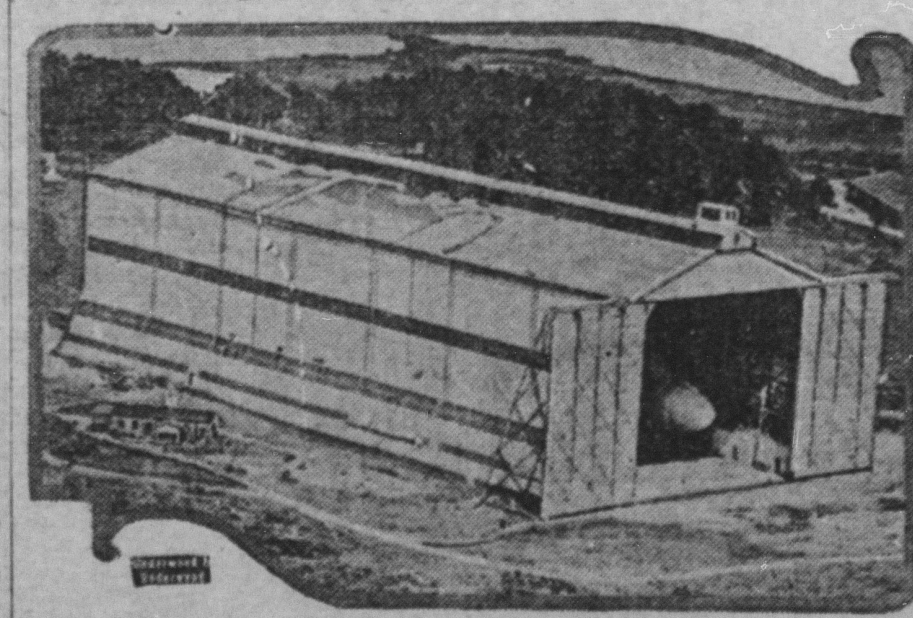
The prisoners generally agreed they had been unable to secure proper medical treatment in the Russian camps, and that their food had been very bad.

At the close of the war there were 250,000 Russians in Germany. The German government estimates that not more than 5,000 Germans will remain in Russian camps this winter.

Before the Russo-Polish hostilities began the Russians were being returned rapidly, but it is now estimated at least 200,000 Russians are still in German camps, 60,000 of whom are the troops interned when they crossed the east Prussian frontier during the Polish offensive.

The German government has expended 30,000,000 marks for transportation of Russians home, and 90,000,000 marks to bring German prisoners out of Russia.

## Airship Hangar at Langley Field



View of the immense airship hangar that has been erected on Langley field, Va.

## Town of 800 Packs Up to Move 10 Miles Away

Ellisville, Miss.—If you don't like the location of your town move the town.

So say the 800 inhabitants of Kohay, Miss. Some of the buildings are now on wheels and others will be loaded on flat cars and carried over a logging road to a site ten miles north of the present location.

## Future Has No Terrors for Him.

Cincinnati, O.—Bernard Parrochhi, cellist with the Symphony orchestra, is back in town and will devote his entire time to his art, for he's had a good time for a year. He's spent \$24,500 of the \$25,000 he inherited, and he spent it all seeing Europe. Parrochhi will not have to worry about the future, however, for \$150,000 is due him when he becomes sixty-one years old, five years hence.

## ARMY MEN HIT HARD

50,000 Former German Officers Are in Bad Way.

Many Compelled to Toil at Hard Labor and Others Try to Exist on Small Pensions.

Berlin.—Many of the 50,000 former German officers discharged since the signing of the armistice have joined the great army of unemployed in Germany, a few have gone to work at hard labor, and others are trying to make small pensions pay for the expensive necessities of mere existence. Officers belonging to old, aristocratic, once wealthy families, are in no better situation than their comrades who relied for a living on their army pay.

They have long since disposed of most of their personal property, and it is not uncommon to see one offering to some foreigner a family heirloom

for enough money to pay a grocery bill.

The wives and sisters of some of these men have gone into the shops, where they earn 350 marks a month, a sum a guest at any of the international hotels frequently pays for a single meal. The widow of a colonel killed at the front is supporting four children on a pension of less than 700 marks a month.

Former soldiers, and particularly the wounded, whose pensions are inadequate to supply them with food, have been hard hit. Day and night they may be seen standing on the streets with cap in hand, begging or selling matches. They still wear their uniforms, or parts of uniforms, and some of them, to incite pity, exhibit their wounds.

A party of Americans walking down Unter den Linden one night saw a former soldier stagger and fall to the pavement, unconscious. City physicians said he had fainted from hunger.