

Anson's Voyage Over 150 Years Ago Hasn't Its Equal in History.

OF NEARLY 2,000 MEN

Only 195 Survived the Cruel Cruise of the War With Spain.

THEY MADE ONLY ONE CAPTURE,

But That One Was the Richest Ever Made in a Single Bottom.

FACTS RIVALING MARRIATTI'S TALES

Of all the voyages around the world, from the days of Magellan to the present time, not one equals in interest the famous voyage of Commodore Anson in the good ship Centurion.

Anson, following as he did Crum, Drake, Gulliford, Cook, Boscawen, and other voyagers, had been designated "the last of the buccaners," as Anson was undoubtedly the first—at least in the South seas—by a regularly organized naval squadron, and in a time of declared war, he scarcely merits the appellation.

Perhaps one reason why Anson was thus called was because he was immediately following him—Cook, Bougainville, Carteret, Wallis, Vancouver, La Pirouse, Calnet, Flinders and others, had a nobler aim in view than that of the cruises—science and discovery!

War From Shalimar: On an Ear.

The war with Spain in 1740 was precipitated in England by the cruel treatment of one Robert Jenkins, master of the Rebecca of Swansea, by a Spanish Guarda Costa.

When Jenkins was taken to the House of Commons he told the members that after the Spanish crew had maltreated his men they savagely cut off one of his ears, put it in a tin can and made him take it home and present it to his sovereign.

The burst of indignation which inflamed all England rendered war with Spain inevitable. It is told by Jenkins, upon being asked how he felt when he took the tin can to his sovereign, that he felt as if he were a man who had been treated as a dog.

The English Plan of Campaign.

The intention of the Government at first was to send out two squadrons, one to protect the coast of the Pacific from the Cape of Good Hope; the other to round Cape Horn, cross the coast of South America, and then to cross the Pacific and join the other.

The latter part of the plan only was carried out. A squadron was fitted out for the purpose and consisted of the following vessels: Centurion, 60 guns, the Commodore; Drake, 40 guns, the Captain; and the ship George, 20 guns, the Captain.

Embarked an Army of Invalids.

The land force of the expedition was intended to consist of 200 soldiers, besides the embarked troops, and orders were issued for 200 invalids to be collected from among the "convalescents" of Chelsea College, and sent to the Centurion, who was to furnish them with food, clothing, and other necessaries.

The Wives of the Admiralty.

The wives of the best seamen and fit to command the expedition, besides the wives of the officers, were over 60, and some upwards of 70 years of age. Not one of these aged warriors, some of whom had survived the carnage of Waterloo and at Biverno, lived to revisit his native land.

The Squadron was Delayed.

The Spanish Government had time to inform the British of the expedition, and to equip a squadron of six ships of war—four of them of the line—under Admiral Don Juan de Latorre, to intercept Anson on his passage.

Never was there a squadron more

equipped, or sent to sea under greater disadvantages. But this did not deter the active and vigorous spirit of Anson, who now hoisted his broad pennant as Commodore, and soon afforded presumption that the resources of his own mind were capable of counteracting some of the evils which were entailed on them.

The squadron sailed from St. Helena September 18, 1740, and after a tedious passage arrived at Madeira on the 22d of October, where, having taken in wine and other necessaries, the Commodore continued his course, narrowly escaping from the Spanish fleet under Pizarro.

A Record of Sickness and Storm.

Even at this early period of the voyage much of the sickness prevailed in the squadron by which its crews were soon reduced to a few. Anson's own ship escaped extra casualties to be cut short for more effective ventilation.

On the 18th of December the squadron anchored at the Island of Santa Catalina, on the coast of Brazil, and landed the sick to the number of some hundreds; but, through the influence and treasury of Don Jose de Paz, the Portuguese Governor, they were very promptly accommodated; and, after burning great numbers, the sickness rapidly increased and diminished.

The Ships were Here Fungated,

and it afterward appeared that the crew of the Centurion, though short in number, were in good health, well trained and distributed to advantage. On the 21st of March the crew was divided into two guns. At 12:30 P. M. the ships sailed, and the action began, which was smartly maintained, and attended with great slaughter on both sides.

The small arm mischief of the Centurion was not very great, but the tops of the Centurion shot down every officer but one who appeared on the quarter deck, and the Centurion was the victor.

A Memorable Victory on the Sea.

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After engaging her, says Anson in his

official report, "an hour and a half within sight of the Centurion, the Admiral struck his flag to the Centurion, and the Centurion called the Nuestra Señora de Caba Danga, Don Gironimo Montero, Admiral; had 42 guns, 11 of which were brass, and 28 carronades, 30 men, 28 of whom were slain, and 38 wounded. Her masts and rigging were shot to pieces, and 150 shot passed through her hull, many of which were between wind and water, which occasioned her to be very leaky.

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WHAT WOMEN WANT TO KNOW.

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