

CALLS GERMAN RAIDER MARVEL

Ponga Has Freighter's Appearance, Cruiser's Qualities, Says Former Captive

Special to the Telegraph New York, April 13.—This is the tale of the German light cruiser Ponga—probably as much of it as will be told until the war is over.

The story was told by Captain J. C. Barton, of the British freighter Corbridge, one of the Ponga's victims, and includes both first-hand knowledge and information based on casual remarks dropped by the British mariner while the British mariner was prisoner aboard the cruiser.

Built Especially as Raider

The newspapers have printed the statement that the Ponga was built in 1914. That is a mistake. She was laid down in 1914, after the war began, but she was not finished until December, 1915. Now, I know this will show that the Ponga was built by the German Admiralty for the sole purpose of running the British blockade and getting out into the open ocean as a commerce raider.

"Above the water line—inside and out—she looks exactly like a fruit ship, a clumsy freighter with nothing to boast of by way of lines. But below the water line nothing finer ever floated. The slow-going old freighter can do 20 knots without half trying. With danger threatening, she can rip out another five knots. It might be a mistake, but the British Admiralty to know this. If they are going to catch the Ponga, they are not to want to send anything after her that cannot exceed 25 knots, for that is what they have to do.

"The Ponga was built in a German port on the Baltic, and she was finished there painted her buff color with the Swedish flag painted on each side amidships. In the flag locker they had every kind of ensigns that are flown anywhere in the world. Just after Christmas they recruited a crew.

"I realize I am saying a lot about a boat that I never saw until the afternoon she sank my ship. But as my story progresses I have a suspicion it will disabuse any doubts on the point. The Ponga was built in a German port on the Baltic, and she was finished there painted her buff color with the Swedish flag painted on each side amidships. In the flag locker they had every kind of ensigns that are flown anywhere in the world. Just after Christmas they recruited a crew.

"The Germans told the crews of the warships on which they went in search of volunteers that the Ponga was a fruit trader and was going to operate in the Baltic, chiefly carrying fruit from Sweden for the tables of German restaurants. Of course, it was a risky business, even at that time. But it was not a case of going to a certain death. The fact that such must be the inevitable finish of every man aboard the Ponga was known to the officers only.

"They all know it now, but I must admit I did not see anything that looked like a rumor among any of them, not exactly light-hearted, but they went about their work with nothing to show that they knew sudden death might come at any moment. The Ponga was known to the officers only.

"I expect I had better tell how I know so much about these things. To begin with, there was the Ponga's nameplate in the chartroom. It gave her genuine name and the date, 1914. But it is the custom to date the construction of a ship from the time her keel is laid, not when she is placed in commission. And as far as the name went, it was never the intention of the Germans to try to keep her name secret. She is not registered and probably never will be.

"The Appam's passengers are responsible for the rumor that she was the Mowee. Most of the prize crew put aboard the Appam were from the Mowee. The Germans figured that if any one came near enough to read that nameplate, unless they were prisoners, it would be an armed boarding party.

"When we returned to the Ponga, I took another look at her underbody. For all the fact that inside she was painted with insulation and lifts, such as fruit ships carry, her underbody showed that she actually had no carrying capacity at all. It made me wonder if so much deception had been necessary to fool that volunteer crew, who thought they were to stay in the Baltic. Then I decided it might be only another example of German thoroughness.

"The next day, January 13, we came up with the Dromondy, the Author and the Trader. Practice had improved the German gunners. They were firing at us with these shells with the first pair of shells. By the time the officers and crews of this trio joined us in our potato cellar we were a sad lot. It had been crowded between the ship and the black hole of Calcutta.

"Forty-eight hours passed without anything happening. And then we heard the forward six-inch guns speak and we knew we were in for another addition to our quarters. It turned out to be the Ariadne. She was along about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 15th and she picked up the Appam. I expect what happened then has been told often enough not to need my version.

"We were in the next day, and this time all of us skippers happened to be in the chartroom, where we had been called by the commander. He was telling us that the next ship we got he was not going to sink, but would use her to put us all aboard with a prize crew, when the lookout sung out and we discovered a sizeable freighter on the horizon off our starboard bow. The skipper forgot us entirely and jumped for the bridge. "Ours started like a whirlwind. We could see everything out of the ports of the chartroom. Presently we could make out the freighter's name. She was 'Clan McTavish,' and she mounted three-pound guns. "The Ponga wireless the Clan McTavish, so her skipper told us later, and ordered her to stop her engines. "Who is she, you," asked the McTavish's operator. "We're a German cruiser," replied the wireless man on the Ponga. "The Britisher's reply to that statement was 'Well, you, and it expressed

DECORATED FLOWER POTS FIND PLACE IN WINDOW BOX SCHEME

Interest in the Telegraph's Porch and Window Box Campaign has extended over to decorated flower pots. The Telegraph herewith presents an offering made from photographs of four samples painted by a Harrisburg lover of plants. They are designed to fill vacant corners on porches or window sills and are really very artistic and inexpensive. Ordinary red earthen flower pots are used and varnished inside and out. Then the paint is laid on.

Reading from left to right: The body of the lower part of the pot is solid white, the upper rim a mixture of blue and green. The design is a conventional blue flower with leaves of light and dark tones of green. Pot number two is a mottled effect of blue and black with white lines as indicated. Pot No. 3 is solid white with a design as shown worked out in light and dark gray. Pot number four is solid white on the lower part with the upper rim a mixed effect of yellow and red. The lower part is a tulip design worked out in yellow and red, with broad green leaves.

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BROTHERS WIN A COUSINLY FIGHT

Oliver F. Strayer Loses in Legal Battle to Keep Option Money

After brief deliberation an April court jury this morning returned a verdict of \$563.77 in favor of H. R. and L. M. Strayer, brothers in their suit against Oliver F. Strayer, their cousin, to recover the option money they paid the defendant when negotiations were pending for the purchase of the latter's interest in the Strayer Hardware Store. The jury returned a verdict not only for the full amount of the brothers' claim but for interest as well.

The second trial in the action brought by Anna R. Motter against Belle Stephenson, administrator for John Marquart to determine who is the legal beneficiary of \$1,000 in life insurance money left by Marquart, was begun before President Judge Kunkel. Mrs. Motter was not permitted to testify because she was named in Marquart's will as a beneficiary. Several months ago a common pleas jury disagreed on a verdict. In No. 2 court before Judge Rush Gillan, suit was begun by Anast Belchus against the McCaul Construction Company to recover damages for injury to Belchus' barber and shoe shining shop next to the Kunkel building. A lot of bricks crashed through the Belchus skylight when the defendant company was constructing the Kunkel building.

Know Henry Garner? — In a letter to-day to James E. Lentz, county recorder, Mrs. E. Garner-Amer, of Medora, Cal., asks for information concerning the birth of Henry Garner. He lived round here about 1790.

Thinks Hubby May Vamoose. — Believing that her husband Roy W. McCarty will suddenly leave the court's jurisdiction and therefore contribute nothing toward paying her counsel fees, Mrs. Nora McCarty today asked the Dauphin court to withdraw the rule she obtained some time ago to require her husband to pay fees.

Wedded Bride of 15. — Pretty Edna May Good, aged 15, this morning became Mrs. Arthur H. Showe when 'Square George W. Hensel, clerk in the county poor board's office, performed the ceremony.

To-day's Petitions. — Nominating petitions filed to-day included the following: Republicans who want to reorganize the county committee: Elmer E. Kissinger, West precinct, Williams township; Thomas W. Miller, Second precinct, Swatara township; Ross A. Look, Third precinct, Paxton township; William H. Ege, Dauphin; Edgar L. McCrone, Fifth precinct, Swatara township.

Open Water Meter Bids. — Bids for furnishing the year's supply of five-eighths, three-fourths, inch, one and a quarter, inch and a half, and two-inch water meters will be opened at 9 o'clock, April 26, by City Engineer Harry F. Bowman, superintendent of public safety. The supply is to meet the city's demands for the year ending May 1917.

Merchandise Hearings April 27. — Thursday, April 27, has been fixed by H. D. Long, county mercantile appraiser, as the date for hearing appeals on the 1916 appraisement. Mr. Long will sit from 9 o'clock until 3 in the county treasurer's office for the purpose.

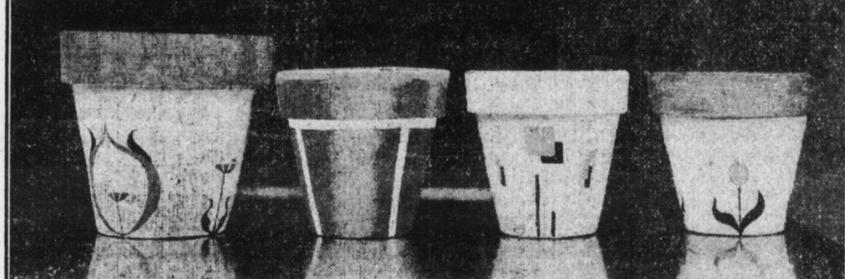
At the Registrar's Office. — To settle Elizabeth M. Matter's estate County Registrar Danner yesterday granted letters of administration to John Matter, West Londonderry township.

the sentiments of the McTavish better than any other word could. "Thereupon the German skipper ordered down the collapsible bulwarks and collapsible deckhouses, which concealed the guns and a six-inch shell went hurtling across the McTavish's bows. It was not long before the McTavish's skipper could not bring himself to believe that this freighter really amounted to anything as a fighter. Anyway, he promptly returned the shot with one of his own miserable little ball about two inches in diameter. He fired another one, too, but that was the last of it.

"If the Appam's passengers call it a fight, their ideas of a fight are a little wrong. The whole thing was over in no time, and after the Ponga had shot 11 shells the McTavish tossed up and pitched stern first into the sea. "One of the two McTavish shots killed three Germans, but I am afraid it was a pity. The Masonic lieutenant confided to me that the McTavish's skipper and all the other officers would pay for that shot the next morning at a court-martial.

"All the McTavish's survivors, except four wounded men, were kept on board the Ponga. The rest of us were transferred that night to the Appam. The end of my story is a cross between what I know and what I have decided. I am convinced the Appam never meant to come into an American port. I am sure the original plan was for her to make for some out-of-the-way spot in the West Indies, put us ashore, and then fit out as a raider on her own account. That must have been the plan, because she is of little value as a prize of no value, as it happens, until the war is over, and she would have been of great value as a raider. Personally, I have reason to believe she had no Newport News because she was forced in. She had less than 24 hours' supply of lubricating oil for her engines. That I know positively."

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COURTHOUSE NOTES

Pave Bridge To-day. — Unless the weather interferes the asphaltting of the new bridge across the Philadelphia and Reading tracks at Nineteenth street will be finished before nightfall by the Ferro-Concrete company. Finishing touches will require another week's work, it is expected, after which the viaduct, according to the city officials, will be turned over to the county commissioners.

Is There Anything in the Name of the Rootbeer One Drinks?

Whether or no, there is much or little in the name of the rootbeer one drinks will be for the Dauphin county court to decide when it hears the county suit begun to-day by the Charles E. Hires Company against Henry Reuser of the "Golden Seal" drug store.

The plaintiff contends Reuser on four occasions during the past year or two sold what was represented to be "Hires" rootbeer. For each sale a penalty of \$200 fine may be imposed. The proceeding to-day is to restrain Reuser from further use of the "Hires" trademark and commodity.

COMPANY B MUSTERED IN. Company B of the Pennsylvania Reserves of B. S. of A., were mustered in last evening by Major Dill. The company is now ready for their out-of-door maneuvers for this summer. The company will probably go to the big encampment in Philadelphia in August for their first camp maneuvers.

WORKMAN INJURED. Mervin Shirley, twenty-eighth and Butler streets, Penbrook, employed at one of eight, the organization buying direct from the manufacturer for all stores. For years the 20th Century Shoe Company has conducted a successful local business at 7 North Market Square.

HERBERT R. GREEN. The 20th Century Shoe Company has secured the services of Herbert R. Green, of Lebanon, as manager of the local store. Mr. Green is a former Harrisburg man, having acquired his first experience in the shoe business with the Philadelphia shoe store located in Market street, a number of years ago. For fifteen years Mr. Green has been associated with the shoe business and intends to add new and snappy styles to the present stock. The local store is one of eight, the organization buying direct from the manufacturer for all stores. For years the 20th Century Shoe Company has conducted a successful local business at 7 North Market Square.

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CARRANZA DEMANDS DEPARTURE OF TROOPS

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try could reciprocally cross the dividing line in pursuit of bandits if unfortunately there should be repeated along the border acts like those committed in Columbus. The note adds, however: "From the beginning the Mexican government judged that by reason of the time which had transpired and for the purpose of treating a case already begun the said incident could not continue as a proposal for the reciprocal passing of troops."

Incorrectly Interpreted. The fact that the United States had incorrectly interpreted the note of March 10 was called to the attention of the Washington government, the statement points out, in a note dated March 11. This note likewise emphasized that the passage of troops would be permitted "only if unfortunately, from this time forward, there should be repeated eruptions like the one registered at Columbus or of any other kind whatever at any point of the frontier line."

On March 13, the statement continues, Frank Polk, acting Secretary of State, in an interview with the Carranza confidential agent deplored not having received the observations of the Mexican government before American troops crossed the border, declaring that the passage of troops took place in the best of faith and in the belief that it would not be necessary to enter into more details of an agreement which was considered definite and ended.

These declarations made by Mr. Polk were later confirmed on March 22 to the Mexican representative by Secretary Lansing, "who stated also that he was sorry at having interpreted wrongly the contents of the said note in respect to the passage of troops and that they would not advance more to the south of the place where they then were."

Reference is also made in the note to the declaration made by President Wilson on March 26, saying "the expedition was ordered under an agreement with the de facto government of Mexico for the purpose only of capturing the bandit Villa, whose forces have invaded territory of the United States, and on no pretext whatever would we order an invasion of that republic or a violation of its sovereignty."

Has Fulfilled Object. "That idea," continues the note, "published by his excellency, President Wilson, was rectified on March 21 by a message sent to our confidential agent in Washington, in which he was instructed to call your attention to the idea indicated, since the note of March 10 referred to the reciprocal passage of troops only in case that incident like those which occurred in Columbus, should be repeated."

In concluding the note, which is signed by Candido Aguilar, secretary for foreign affairs, points out that as the American expedition "has fulfilled its object insofar as it will be able to do so, as the party headed by Villa has already dispersed; and finally, because there are Mexican troops in sufficient numbers pursuing them, and more forces are being sent to exterminate the rest of the beaten party, the first chief of the constitutionalist army, charged with the executive power of the nation, decides that it is already time to treat with the United States Government for the withdrawal of their forces from our territory."

Admiral Winslow Makes No Mention of Attack on Americans in Dispatches. Washington, D. C., April 13.—Dispatches received early to-day at the Navy Department from Admiral Winslow, commanding the Pacific fleet, made no mention of a reported bandit raid upon Americans near Guaymas, the navy officials believe, is able to cope with any anti-American incident without assistance from the Denver. A report that Carranza's raid is also understood to be at Guaymas.

Navy dispatches reported quiet at Vera Cruz, Tampico and Progreso.

U. S. WILL NOT HEED REQUEST TO WITHDRAW

[Continued From First Page.]

Moreover, it was said military prudence would necessitate holding the advance columns close to supporting forces until the attitude of the Mexican troops about them was definitely known.

War Department Prepared. It was also increasingly evident today that the War Department has endeavored to prevent against possibilities although strictest secrecy has been observed. It is understood that in every movement of troops beyond the border and along the international line, the possibility of an attempt to cut off the expedition has been considered and the War Department is prepared to back up the forces should need arise.

Some officials privately expressed the view that General Carranza might have felt compelled to propose the withdrawal of troops in deference to public sentiment in Mexico. It was pointed out that his note proposed only opening of negotiations to that end.

In official quarters it was stated that the American troops will not be withdrawn, at this time at least, and that while the question is being discussed with General Carranza the pursuit of the Villa bandits will be rushed with renewed vigor.

Secretary Baker, of the War Department, said he was unable to comment upon General Carranza's note because it raised questions of administrative policy entirely within the jurisdiction of the President and the State Department.

Content Object Accomplished. Although General Carranza raised side issues, administration officials at their first view of the communication regarded the principal contention as being that the object of the punitive expedition has been accomplished so far as it can be, and that the Villa bands have been dispersed.

War Department officials take the view that they have no evidence that the Villa bands have been dispersed, because they never had definite information at this time, and that the very nature of the situation gives no evidence that the raiders have been exterminated.

Some State Department officials confessed that General Carranza's note was not a surprise. Counselor Polk confirmed the statement in the note that when he asked for the object of the punitive expedition, the reply was "satisfactory," but was coupled with an expression of surprise that the United States had not awaited final approval of the punitive expedition before sending troops across the border.

First Formal Protest. It was declared, officially, however, that no formal protest against the entry of General Pershing's columns had been previously made by General Carranza. When the advance troops crossed at Columbus, it was officially stated, a Carranza general met them at the border and made no protest either personally or on behalf of his government.

State Department officials took the view that General Carranza's note was not a demand for immediate withdrawal of the forces, but an invitation to begin negotiations to limit their stay.

Counselor Polk conferred with Major-General Scott, chief of staff, and reported that the negotiations would be handled exclusively by Secretary Lansing.

The dispatch of the punitive expedition before negotiation of the protest was characterized by State Department officials as "perfectly justified" by the correspondence between Secretary Lansing and the Carranza government.

Admiral Winslow stated that the sum of \$100,000 was being raised by a number of Americans from Mazatlan.

The last report from Admiral Winslow was dated yesterday at 10 a. m. and reported Guaymas and vicinity quiet. The cruiser Chattanooga, the navy officials believe, is able to cope with any anti-American incident without assistance from the Denver. A report that Carranza's raid is also understood to be at Guaymas.

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HERBERT R. GREEN AGAIN WITH HARRISBURG CONCERN



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Advertisement for 'Bringing Up Father' comic strip. Text includes: 'You Will Find Your Money's Worth Of Mirth and Unending Delight', 'This Is George McManus' Best Comic Creation and the Most Popular in the Country Today', 'Mr. Jiggs Is a Diamond in the Rough And His Adventures Furnish a Prolific Source of Laughs', 'This Is Only One of Several Comics Every Afternoon', 'The Harrisburg Telegraph'.