

A Bluff In The Aegean Sea

By F. A. MITCHEL

During the second year of the pan-European war I commanded a 2,000 ton tramp steamer called the Ajax.

I left Smyrna in August, 1915, with a cargo of rugs and other Asiatic goods for the port of New York. I was obliged to steam through the Greek archipelago, which I knew afforded fine nesting for corsairs. I did not fear Greeks, but I dreaded Asiatics from the opposite eastern coast. If I could get through to the open Mediterranean sea I would feel a reasonable expectation of getting my cargo to America and a large profit.

One day while passing between two Greek islands I was called from the moon meal by the lookout, who reported a small craft resembling a tug putting out from a cove and steering a course with the evident intention to head us off. Through my glass I saw that she carried the German flag.

Now, I did not believe that any German craft would be sailing in those waters, which were occupied by the allied fleets, especially the British. If this one were really German I was of the opinion that she was a tender for a submarine. However, I could only wait and learn. I kept on my course, watching in every direction for a periscope, till the tug—for such she proved to be—was close on to my bows. Through my glass I could see on her deck a number of men in sailor costume who might be in the German service; but, judging from their swarthy complexions, they were Asiatics.

One man who appeared to be commander wore the uniform of a German naval officer, but I believed he had obtained it without having a commission. He was whiter than his men and might have been a European. One thing I noticed particularly—there was no appearance of cannon. Whatever armament there was doubtless consisted of such weapons as could be wielded by individuals. However, while I looked a port was opened and the nose of a little barker appeared. It was as terrifying as a bull pup. I did not believe it could sink us, though it might put our machinery out of commission.

With its appearance the commander of the tug called through a megaphone something in German which one of my men who understood the language thought to be a demand for surrender. A submarine was ready to blow us out of water. We were given ten minutes to take to the boats.

Never was there a more palpable case of bluff. There was no submarine, nothing which could be relied on to sink us. We were in danger of being boarded and overpowered by Asiatic pirates playing the submarine act. Though I was not deceived, I confess it looked to me that the only chance for our lives was to take to the boats and leave our cargo to the pirates. There were a few small arms aboard, but not enough of them or men to use them to put up an adequate defense.

But we had a means of defense that I had often thought of using in case of being attacked by the small enemies that infest certain Asiatic coasts. I determined to try it now. I had plenty of hose, and I ordered it attached to the steam cocks of the boiler. There were two hose which could be used separately. I asked for more time from the pirate and was told that not a minute would be granted. So I ordered the men to pretend to begin the work of lowering the boats, and they made a great ado with the ropes, but accomplished nothing. During the few minutes they were thus engaged we were attaching the hose to the boiler and running the nozzles on deck, where they were hidden under the gunwale. When all was ready I ordered the men away from the boats, and word was shouted to the pirate that if he wanted our ship to come and take it or if he intended to blow us up to do so.

This was evidently not in his calculations. There was a conference among them; then we could see arms brought on deck. It was evident that they intended to board us. Meanwhile they ran up against us and were about to lash to us when I took a hose and, pointing it down at them, sent a stream of scalding water among them, which caused them to desist and get out of range as soon as possible.

A number of them had been scalded just enough to make them furious with pain, and, after taking time to consider, they launched a rowboat carried on their deck and manned it, and while the tug came under our bows the rowboat approached our stern. There was some protection for them both fore and aft, but as soon as a man appeared at either point he received a dose of steam that sent him howling back, and some of them were knocked into the brine.

This plan having failed, both boarding parties retreated and, joining forces on the tug, began to pepper us with their little barker. I sent men below to plug holes that might be made under water; but, fearing damage to our boiler which would put us at their mercy, I determined to assume the offensive. Pointing the vessel straight at the tug before she could get out of the way, I ran alongside of her and dove every man below with scalding water.

It was now evident that I had mastered them, and, putting on all steam, I showed them a clean pair of heels. In a few hours I was clear of the archipelago and in due time reached New York, where I sold my cargo at a splendid profit.

A Woman's Rights

By ETHEL HOLMES

Miss Elinor Bates was preparing her trousseau for her marriage with Jack Weatherby when she received a note from him calling the affair off. He gave no excuse, but Elinor knew that he had never been known to stick to one girl for any length of time and felt sure that she had been replaced.

Miss Bates was a native of South Carolina, but had spent ten of her twenty years in the north, where she had imbibed the ideas of the new woman. Her grandfather had fought a duel, and in her family the code was considered the only way of settling unpleasant affairs. These two conditions, a belief in the right of an injured person to demand satisfaction from the injurer and the elevation of women to the privileges of men, decided her to send a challenge to Mr. Weatherby.

Jack was dressing for dinner when he received Elinor's note, for she had not gone so far as to send a second, and, laying it open on the dresser, read it, finishing making a bow of his necktie at the same time. When he had finished both he lighted a cigarette and, throwing himself into an easy chair, gave himself up to thought.

Now, the reason for his breaking with Elinor was that the income to support her was to come from his father, who had agreed to give him \$5,000 a year, and he had at the last moment changed his mind. Jack, thinking that an explanation of this would only serve to irritate Elinor against his father, chose another course.

Jack, who did not consider that truth had any more place in love affairs than in a statement of a woman's age, replied to the challenge by saying that he had promised his mother that he would never fight a duel. On this account he must decline to render Miss Bates what she must confess was her right to demand and to receive.

When Elinor received this letter she saw at once that her effort to punish her recreant lover had failed. Had she been a man she might have published him as a potroon and a coward with effect, but should she do so as a woman she would only make herself ridiculous. Nobody would blame him for refusing to fight a woman.

Women had horsewhipped men who had jilted them, and it seemed to Elinor that this would be the natural consequence in her case. It would be following in the course of men too. Men who had refused to fight men had been horsewhipped by the challenger. But Elinor hoped by a threat to produce results without taking such drastic measures. She wrote Jack another note stating that she proposed to horsewhip him the next time she met him. This, she thought, would bring him to terms. There could be no greater dread for a man than to stand in the face of a gathering crowd and receive a dressing from a woman. Miss Bates was forced to admit that this was not the same relative position as between two men, for Jack would not be privileged to strike back.

Jack thought over this new phase of the case and made up his mind to make no reply. He dearly loved the girl who was trying to punish him for a crime he had not committed and which pained him as much as it pained her.

Elinor provided herself with a whip. She endeavored to secure the traditional "cowhide" that had been used by her ancestors on those who refused to fight, but she failed to do so. However, she procured a good, stout whip and slung it about her waist under her coat. She selected it on account of the color of its handle, which harmonized with that of the costume she intended to wear when she did the whipping.

To be candid, Miss Bates shrank from publicity as much as she presumed her recreant lover would shrink from it. In this she was weakened. Instead of waiting till she met him in a crowd she went one morning to the Weatherby residence, which stood back from the street and was partly hidden by shrubbery. Entering the grounds, she concealed herself behind foliage and waited for Jack to appear. Presently he emerged from a side door and was making his way to the garage when Elinor pounced upon him.

Elinor had made a mistake in notifying him of her intention to horsewhip him. It enabled him to prepare himself for the encounter. As soon as she began to rain blows upon him he drew from his pocket a yard of satin ribbon and returned blow for blow with it.

Mr. Weatherby senior was in his accustomed seat in the library reading the morning paper when, hearing the sound of Elinor's whip on Jack's coat and trousers, he looked out through the window.

Raising the sash, he watched the fight for a few moments, then cried out to be informed what it meant.

Elinor ceased her blows and said: "Your son has treated me abominably, and I am punishing him as he deserves."

"Jack, you young rascal, what does this mean?"

"It means, father, that I couldn't marry without the income you promised me, and really it was you and not I who is blamable if any one is."

"H'm," said the old man thoughtfully. "How much was I to give you?"

"Five thousand a year."

"Well, sir, do your duty, and I'll do mine."

It was all made up then and there, and the settlement was made five minutes before the wedding.

MOVIE DOINGS

MISS ELLA HALL A SYMPHONY IN PINK

Ella Hall grows prettier every day, but she never seems to grow any older. The little Bluebird star is like Peter Pan—she refuses to grow up. Her latest photoplay shows her in the engaging character of a twelve-year-old housekeeper to two lawyers, living in bachelor apartments in dear old London. She also plays the part of an earl's daughter, whom the little housekeeper so closely resembles that she is persuaded to substitute for her for a few



Ella Hall, Bluebird Star.

days, so that the countess her mother, separated from the earl, can smuggle the little Lady Marion out of the country. The picture was booked for a week's run at the Rialto theatre, on Broadway, New York, one of the largest picture theatres in the world, and had a great success. Miss Hall has to wear childish clothes in it, and that is one reason why she has just indulged in some very smart new "grown-up" garments. Everybody loves a change. The picture shows her brand new evening wrap, which is built of pink pussy willow taffeta, and has a huge Manon-like collar, edged with cording

NEW DETECTIVE STAR

A series of photoplays, with the inspiring general title, "The Perils of the Secret Service," have been written and directed at Universal City by no less a personage than George Branson Howard, famous author and playwright. Each story will be in two reels, and each complete in itself, with a leading character whose adventures in the employ of our government as a special sort of detective - diplomat, form the series. The stories were published originally under the title "Yorke Norroy, Diplomatic Agent," and had a great success.

There are only two characters running throughout the series of eight episodes, or adventures. The more important of these is Yorke Norroy, played by Kingsley Benedict, and he will be found to be a creation as distinct and individual as that of Sherlock Holmes himself. Benedict will be remembered for many well-studied performances on the screen.

He had seen no less than seventeen years of stage experience before his first picture engagement. He has traveled extensively, making himself at home in all countries. His stage work was accomplished under the banner of some of the most famous managers of our stage, Charles Frohman, and Klaw and Erlanger, for example.

An interesting phase of the character of Yorke Norroy, as Mr. Howard has conceived it, is the author's insistence that his hero has the appearance of being merely a man of fashion, a social favorite, with no ambition above the desire to be the best-dressed man in his set and a delightful entertainer of pretty women. This exterior conceals the real man, the keen intelligence and wonderful resourcefulness, the knowledge of men and women and the proven courage, which make Norroy the trusted agent of his government. This portrait might almost be that of Kingsley Benedict himself, of about medium height, with gray eyes and light-brown hair, rather slightly built, always beautifully dressed and wearing his clothes with an air of great distinction. Benedict gives no indication in his appearance of being an expert horseman, a wonderful swordsman and an all-around athlete. He is fully competent to depict the traveled adventurer, at home in all the European capitals, for he knows them all by personal experience.

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of the silk. There is a big ruche around the hem, which also recalls the operatic heroine. Unfortunately we cannot see the lining, which is of flowered chiffon, in a pale yellow shade, with bunches of posies, in Dresden colorings, all over it. Miss Hall says that it is prettier than the outside.

She is all ready to go to dinner in a restaurant, so she is wearing a hat of pink silk crepe, with the new cloak, and her frock is of pink taffeta and silver lace. There are silver slippers, with tremendous heels to go with the pretty costume.

STUDIO NOTES

Dorothy Davenport of Universal has a hard time making her dogs and her garden get along together.

Lynn Reynolds, the Bluebird director, has completed a picture staged in Alaska.

The Universal Screen Magazine has been such a huge success that it will be released every week.

Henry de Vries, famous Protean actor, supported Ruth Stonehouse in its Bluebird, "The Sainly Sinner."

Ben Wilson and Neva Gerber have the leads in the new Universal serial, "The Voice on the Wire."

Director General Blystone of the L-KO Komedies has been forced, by bad weather, to put aside his circus picture for the present.

Eddie Lyons and Lee Moran, the Universal Nestor comedians, are immensely popular in Scotland's picture theatres.

The nickname of Agnes Vernon, the little Bluebird star, playing in "The Man Who Took a Chance," is "Brownie."

Jack Mulhall, who kills four men in the first reel of the Red Feather, "The Terror," says really he wouldn't hurt a fly.

Joe Moore, the youngest of the famous picture family, is cast in a forthcoming L-KO Komedy with Alice Howell.

The scene of Mary MacLaren's next Bluebird will be laid during the Indian wars, and the play is called "The Plow Woman."

Stuart Paton, the director of the next Universal serial, "The Voice on the Wire," is a Scotchman by birth, and has offered his services to his country.

Dan Russell is starred in a picture built around a six-day bicycle race. The plans which were used for the track at Madison Square Garden in New York were borrowed for the construction of the set.

MISS NEVA GERBER'S HOBBY

Neva Gerber, the pretty leading lady of the new serial, "The Voice on the Wire," is said to possess the most attractive dressing room at Universal City.

The walls and ceiling are tinted pale blue, and the windows are hung with blue and white Japanese chintz. There are wicker chairs with chintz curtains, and handsome rugs on the floor. The room contains many souvenirs from her admirers. On the walls hang some original paintings and sketches, the work of the donors, while her dresser is adorned by two statuettes in bronze. There is a Japanese table of black lacquer, which was presented to her by a naval officer, and on it is a dainty tea service in blue and white china. On chilly afternoons the little actress often invites her fellow workers to an informal tea party.

What distinguishes the room even more than its pretty arrangement, is the fact that no matter how busy or how hurried Miss Gerber may be, she never allows it to be out of order. Everything is always daintily dusted, and all the various articles are in their places. For, of course, she never forgets that the room is primarily for use and not for beauty, and she knows that a good workman always keeps his tools in the pink of perfection.

Bluebird Photoplay Inc. is producing Henrik Ibsen's famous drama, "The Doll's House," as a five-reel feature, under the direction of Joseph De Grasse. This most celebrated of all the plays of the great Norwegian dramatist has been an immense success on the speaking stage, and has been played in almost every country in the world where the theatre is an institution. It has been translated into all languages.

In the film version the principal roles will be taken by Dorothy Phillips, who will enact Nora, and Lon Chaney, who will play her husband, with William H. Stowell in support. The play is receiving the most careful adaptation, and the settings and accessories will all be as painstakingly worked out as if the production were for a great Broadway theatre. The play is expected to duplicate the success as a motion picture which it has had as a speaking drama.

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FOOD AND WAR

Shortage in Raw Materials Gives Rise to Alarm Among Manufacturing Interests—America Must Apply Every Resource to Meet World's Demand for Food—Labor Saving Machines and Man Power on the Farms Vital Factors in Economic Crisis—Appeal for Government Action.

Government action ensuring the farmers of America ample supplies of farm implements and competent farm labor is virtually necessary to this country's future participation in the war, declare the manufacturers of farming tools and machinery in the United States. This action must be immediate and radical, they say, or in 1918 the United States will fail to produce foodstuffs necessary to feed the civil population of our allies and to keep the allied armies in fighting trim.

This declaration is made in a public statement by the National Implement and Vehicle Association, whose members manufacture most of the farming implements used in and exported from the United States. It is the Association's answer to an anxious inquiry about reports of a prospective implement shortage addressed to it in behalf of the country's farming interests by ex-Governor W. D. Hoard of Wisconsin, one of the leaders of American agriculture and publisher of Hoard's Dairyman. The statement, which is signed by Charles S. Brantingham, Chairman of the Association's Executive Committee, says:

Unless prompt action is taken by the Government, our country will make the same mistakes that have resulted in compelling our allies to appeal to us to save them from famine. Unless we protect the production of labor-saving farm machinery and the supply of skilled farm labor we, too, must soon face a shrinkage of food supplies.

Without such action as is here suggested and urged, the farmers of the United States will not have enough machines or men in 1918 to meet the demands upon them.

"We are now confronted by shortages of raw material and factory labor that will begin to be manifest in shortages of certain lines of farm machinery this fall and will result in serious shortages in many vital lines next year. Stocks on hand in important kinds of tools and machines are smaller than in normal years, because of earlier scarcity of factory labor and a rapidly tightening scarcity of all raw materials.

"Farmers have deferred during the last three years the replacing of old and badly worn tools and machines. Now, confronted by the practical certainty that the war is to continue indefinitely, with attendant assurance of a heavy demand and high prices for all their products, and by an inevitable shortage of farm labor, they cannot put off longer replacements of worn out machines and the additions to equipment necessary to increase acreage and production.

"It is also essential in meeting the demand of the farmers for implements that there shall be preference in transportation for raw materials to the factories and for finished goods from the factories to the farms.

"For the last ten years farm labor has been more and more difficult to secure, and now with an enormous increase in the demand for labor in munitions factories, and the withdrawal of many young men from productive occupations, there is bound to be a shortage of farm labor such as this country has never known. In Kansas alone a vast number of fertile acres on which the wheat crop failed will lie idle this summer, chiefly for lack of labor and partly through lack of machines to replant to corn.

"We regard it as vital to keep on the farms the men now there who know the business, especially the men trained in the use of labor-saving machinery. It would be wasteful and foolish to let them go and afterward try to replace them with unskilled men.

"We seek no advantage for our industry over any other, but we realize and we want the public to realize that without this product and without sufficient labor the farmers of the United States cannot increase or even maintain their production of foodstuffs next year. To avert the calamity that such a condition will surely produce, our industry and the farming industry which it chiefly supports must be put upon the same preferred basis as the making of war munitions, even if other less vital industries suffer thereby for materials and men.

"These are the measures that we declare to be vital to the feeding of this nation and its allies next year:

"1. That the manufacture of farm materials be given equal preference with the manufacture of war munitions as regards supplies of necessary raw materials.

"2. That service to the country in farm machinery factories be considered of equal importance with service in munition making plants, Government or private.

"3. That labor on the farms be considered as of equal importance with the production of war munitions.

"4. That the raw materials for farming machinery and the finished goods be given equal preference by the transportation agencies of the country with munitions of war.

"These measures must be taken immediately to be effective, because the use and demand for farming machinery are seasonal. We must have right now materials and the men to make the farm machinery that the farmer at home and abroad must use this fall and next Spring. Delay in action will be as disastrous as failure to act at all."

SUBMARINES IN WARFARE.

Only Men of Iron Nerves and Quick Decision Can Work Them.

"It calls for men of iron nerves and quick decision to man our submarines either in peace or war," writes Frank E. Evans in St. Nicholas. "Submarine experts look upon the factor of nerves as the most important of all, and they have given to it the title of calculation."

"Within the cramped walls that are the home of the crew are housed the most intricate mechanisms that man has invented for warfare. Outside its steel walls are mines, great nets of wire, explosives, shells and seaplanes, all devised for its destruction, and the sharp keels of ships that slice through them as a knife cuts cheese. The smallest shell can penetrate them, and nets can hold the submarine as helpless as a child in the grasp of a giant.

"Danger lies everywhere for the tiger of the seas. The ocean in which it lives is a powder tank that waits but for a spark. Only nerves of iron can cope against such an array of enemies. The slightest hesitation of its captain in the face of any of them means the end of his ship and his crew.

"As one expert has put it, the whole A B C of submarine warfare is to act at an instant's warning with nerves of steel."

MAKING GASES LIQUID.

Knowledge of the "Critical Temperature" Solved the Problem.

In regard to the boiling points of liquid, there is an upper limit to the point at which a thing boils—that is, changes to the state of vapor. It is called the critical temperature. No matter how great a pressure exists on a substance, if it is at a temperature greater than its critical it will change to vapor anyhow.

The ignorance of this point held back the making of liquefied gases—such as air, carbon dioxide, etc.—for many years. The experimenters tried to liquefy gases at ordinary temperatures by enormous pressures, whereas if they had just cooled the gases below their critical temperatures before applying the pressure liquefaction would have ensued immediately.

This is the method employed today in making liquid air. The air is compressed at first and then allowed to issue from a small orifice, thus expanding and cooling; is then pumped back and compressed by the pump, allowed to go through the orifice again, thus cooling still more, until at last it is below the critical temperature, when the compression caused by the pump liquefies it.

Nature of Sleep.

Investigation by scientists of the nature of the sleep of persons in normal health shows that it varies according to the daily diet and the different hours at which sleep is begun. Altogether the ideal hour for retiring is 10 o'clock. The sleep of a person going to bed regularly at approximately this time gradually augments in intensity for the space of an hour. It then suddenly becomes very profound, reaching its maximum intensity at about 11:30 o'clock. Within five or six minutes from this time it has been found that the sleep begins to be less deep. In an hour the sleeper is again in the same condition of slumber as at about 11:15. From this time until after 2 o'clock the rest is steady and light. From 2 until 4 it augments, and then it consistently diminishes until it ceases at the customary time of rising.

Stevenson at Noyon.

The Cathedral of Noyon, in France, exercised a great fascination over Robert Louis Stevenson. "I have seldom looked on the east end of a church with more complete sympathy," he wrote. "As it flanges out in three wide terraces and settles down broadly on the earth it looks like the poop of some great old battleship. There is a roll in the ground, and the towers just appear above the pitch of the roof, as though the good ship were bowing lazily over an Atlantic swell. At any moment it might be a hundred feet away from you, mounting the next billow. At any moment a window might open and some old admiral thrust forth a cocked hat and make an observation."—London Chronicle.

To Keep From Losing Breath.

Where respiration is rhythmical there is no loss of breath in walking fast, running uphill or going upstairs. The method of preventing breathlessness consists in maintaining the rhythm and the speed of respiration. When the breathing is rhythmic the breathing keeps pace with the step. The out-breathing must be twice the length of the in-breathing, and not more than eighteen or twenty complete breath circuits must be made per minute.

Bluebirds.

During the nesting season the bluebird may be found in the United States (west to Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana), southern Canada, Mexico and Guatemala. In the winter it is found in the southern half of the eastern United States and south to Guatemala.

Domestic Economy.

"Does your wife economize?" "Yes," replied Mr. Meekton. "She has figured to a nicety how many new gowns the money I spend for cigars would buy."—Washington Star.

Quail of the Bible.

The quail mentioned in the Bible in Exodus xvi, Numbers xi and in Psalm cv, 40, is a bird of passage about the size of a turtle dove and resembling the American partridge.