

Valley Soldiers Fight at Vera Cruz

From the History of 109th Field Artillery

(Continued from last week) 1847

"Upon arriving at New Orleans the regiment was ordered into camp upon the old battle ground six miles below the city. \* \* \* It was about the middle of January when the Artillerists, with three other companies, embarked on board the "Russell Glover," a crazy old hulk of about fifteen hundred tons burthen...

"The men having exhausted every means of amusement, became extremely restive and impatient at the great length of the voyage, which they very justly considered uselessly prolonged; and one Saturday afternoon they assembled upon the upperdeck and organized a meeting. Phil Ritsell, a rollicking printer from Philadelphia, was called upon to state its objects. He accordingly mounted the cook's gallery and proceeded to address the assemblage. Just such a speech was probably never heard before or since. It was overflowing with witty quaint sayings, delivered in the Pennsylvania English-Dutch vernacular...

"Whether the meeting and resolutions had corrected Capt. Tripe's reckoning and aided him in observations, or whether the ship had been on its course all the time, and the voyage was lengthened out by accident rather than design, it is certain, however, that the island hove in sight on Monday afternoon."

A general landing on Lobos Island "was impracticable the evening of the arrival; but there were scores of men on board the vessel who were desperately sick—who had had been stricken by the pestilential atmosphere between decks and were as utterly helpless as infants. To them even this desert island was a haven—an oasis where health was to be regained or least freedom to breathe the free air, untaunted by the foul atmosphere which surrounded them on shipboard. These men, the surgeon, who was a humane gentleman, determined to land at once. The writer was one of this number, and it was a glad moment when his feet touched the beach."

"Thus the sultry days of February wore away. Ships were continually arriving and disembarking other regiments. No official notice of destination had as yet been given, but it was well understood that a landing was to be made at Vera Cruz, and that terrible castle of San Juan d'Ulua, about which so much had been written, was a great bugbear."

those on shipboard, and they could feel their hearts beat with the intensity of suppressed emotions as they watched with eager eyes each sweep of the oars, each foot of progress made by the surf boats, as they rapidly neared the beach. At length they ground. The men leap into the water, waist deep, and rush to the shore. Lines are formed as though by magic. For a very brief space there was a halt. Suddenly a regiment breaks from the line, and with a dash and a wild hurrah, which is taken by the entire division, and echoed by ten thousand throats on shipboard, rushes for the neighboring heights. It is followed by other regiments, and now the struggle is, to be first in planting regimental colors upon the eminence. The vessels are crowded, from top to taffrail with eager, excited spectators. But the nervous strain is over. Not a shot has been fired \* \* \*

"At peep of dawn the following day the \* \* \* work of forming a semi-circle around the doomed city, a belt of fire, as it were, was commenced. \* \* \* Our position was the right and left center, fronting the city. That morning we sniffed gunpowder in real downright earnest and the men behaved well."

"The siege lasted just twenty days, from the landing until the surrender although the time seemed much longer. While a party of foragers including some of our company were collecting beef they were attacked by Mexican troops and had to be rescued by a force under General Patterson. This was the battle or rather skirmish of Madelin. On the 28th of March the city of Vera Cruz surrendered, their army marched out of the city between two parallel lines of ours, grounded their arms and took up the line of the march for the interior. Our bands played Hail Columbia, the Star Spangled Banner and Yankee Doodle while the field batteries and the guns in the castle and forts saluted and our troops took possession of the city."

"One man, however, showed the white feather, unmistakably. He dropped his gun, lost his cap, and ran as though for dear life. Sam Marks, one of the Lewistown boys, who never knew what fear was, picked up the abandoned implement of war and headpiece. When he met the frightened soldier, considering the occasion worthy of a little formality, he said: 'Daniel, here is your gun and cap. If you had mentioned that you were going to leave us so suddenly I would have taken charge of them for you. As it happened I have brought them along, thinking you might possibly need them some time.'

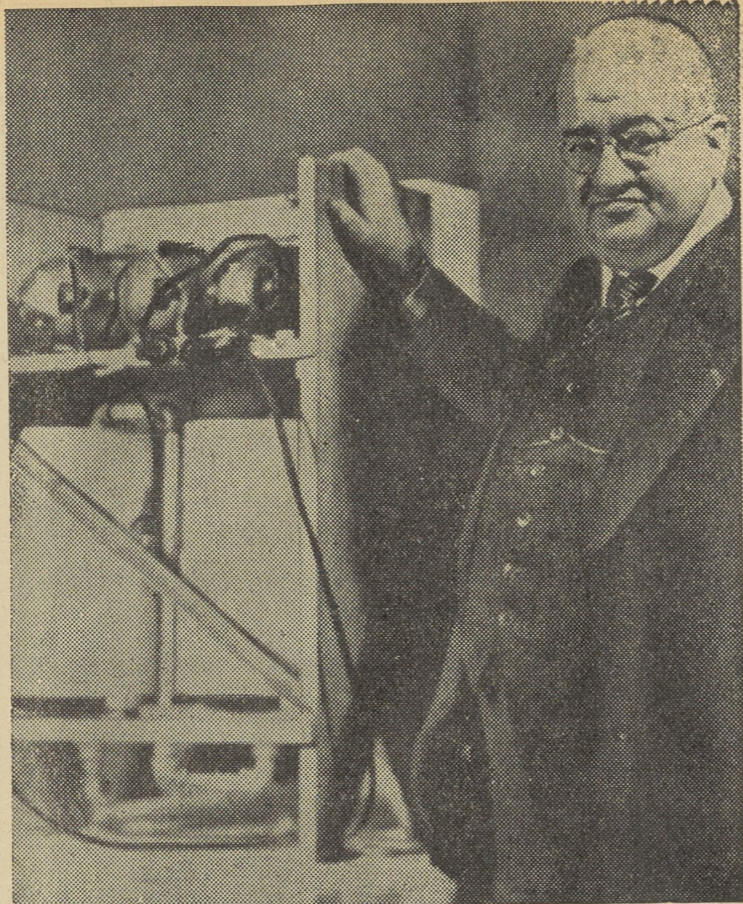
The joke was that this man whose name is not given for apparent reasons, was an arrogant braggart and bully. He had boasted what terrible things he was going to do with Santa Anna and his army and overawed the modest men of the company with his blatant talk. With a single incident we will dismiss him from further consideration. He 'played sick' and shirked the battle of Cerro Gordo. When accused of cowardice by some men who did not fear him as a bully, he straightened himself, and with a peculiar wag of the head and the immense effrontery of which he was capable, said: 'Well, fellows, I know I am a coward; but just wait until we are going home, and I will tell the biggest story of any of you; and he kept his word.'

"After a few days' rest we marched as part of Pillow's Brigade and on the 18th of April fought the battle of Cerro Gordo. General Pillow had made himself unpopular with our men. Generals Twiggs, Worth and Shields made the attack to our right and made the flanking movement which got to the enemy's rear while we made the holding or frontal attack. As the other troops arrived in the Mexican rear great numbers of them on our immediate front surrendered, three thousand in all. It was a serious defeat for the Mexicans and their General Santa Anna 'without escort, almost without companions', barely escaped."

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CZARIST INVENTOR SLAIN IN NEW YORK



Shown with a washing machine of his invention, Michael Borislavsky, Russian-born inventor, was found shot to death in New York City soon after he had boasted that he expected to get \$500,000 from the United States for a new type bomb he had invented. Borislavsky was a colonel in the Russian White Army.

DALLAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SEEK A FIRST CLASS NICKNAME

Not everybody likes his nickname but Dallas Borough High School hasn't got one and its students are on the alert to find one—short and catchy—that will please everybody. Carol Shaver crystallizes the desire in the following editorial in the latest issue of the Hi-Light, student publication: "This editorial has been written to prove to you that our school should have a nickname. There are several reasons to be discussed on this subject. One is a nickname is shorter to say. The students in school should be proud to have a nice nickname; not only proud, but they should like to have one."

Rita Mercy Hall with Doctor Eugenia Leonardi, associate professor of Guidance at the C. U. A., presiding, and with College Misericordia's Dean College Recital The orchestra of College Misericordia presented a program under the direction of Miss Marie Patrullo in the Little Theatre at 1:00 p. m., on February 20th. The program was a group of selections by Robert Schumann. Those who participated were: violinists, Helen Grown, Mary Helen Beline, Marie Morris, Florence Banks, Nancy Gallagher, Nancy O'Brien, Mary Ellen Schiff, Helen Marie Marr, Wanda Perkuroski, Claire Mullens, Mary Mangon, Marion Jones; cellists, Mary Rogers, Audrey Senior; bass, Barbara Cook; saxophone, Sadie Morris; trombone, Josephine De Simone; cornet, Helen Grzeszkiewicz, Marie McCarthy; pianist, Marguerite Corigan.

Campus Brevities

The President and Dean of College Misericordia represented the college at the annual convention of the National Association of Deans of Women's College held in Atlantic City through the past week. More than 500 representatives registered, 120 of whom were from colleges conducted by various religious orders throughout the east and west. Collateral meetings were held by the National Association of Personnel Workers; the National Vocational Guidance Association; and by a special chapter of Catholic Deans, organized with the approval of the National Association. Meetings of the latter were held each evening at

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Selected Quality Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Finest U. S. No. 1 or Blue Label POTATOES 15 lbs. full peck 19c. TOMATOES Fancy, Red-Ripe, Solid, Slicing 2 lbs 25c. Iceberg Lettuce Fancy Calif. large head 5c. Fresh Spinach Crisp Clean 1 lb 5c. Sweet, Juicy Florida ORANGES 20 for 25c. Large, Thin Skin GRAPEFRUIT 3 for 10c. Yellow Onions 4 lbs 10c. Washed Carrots White Turnips Rutabagas 10c. Large, Juicy, California LEMONS 6 for 10c. Fresh Jamaica COCONUTS each 5c.

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