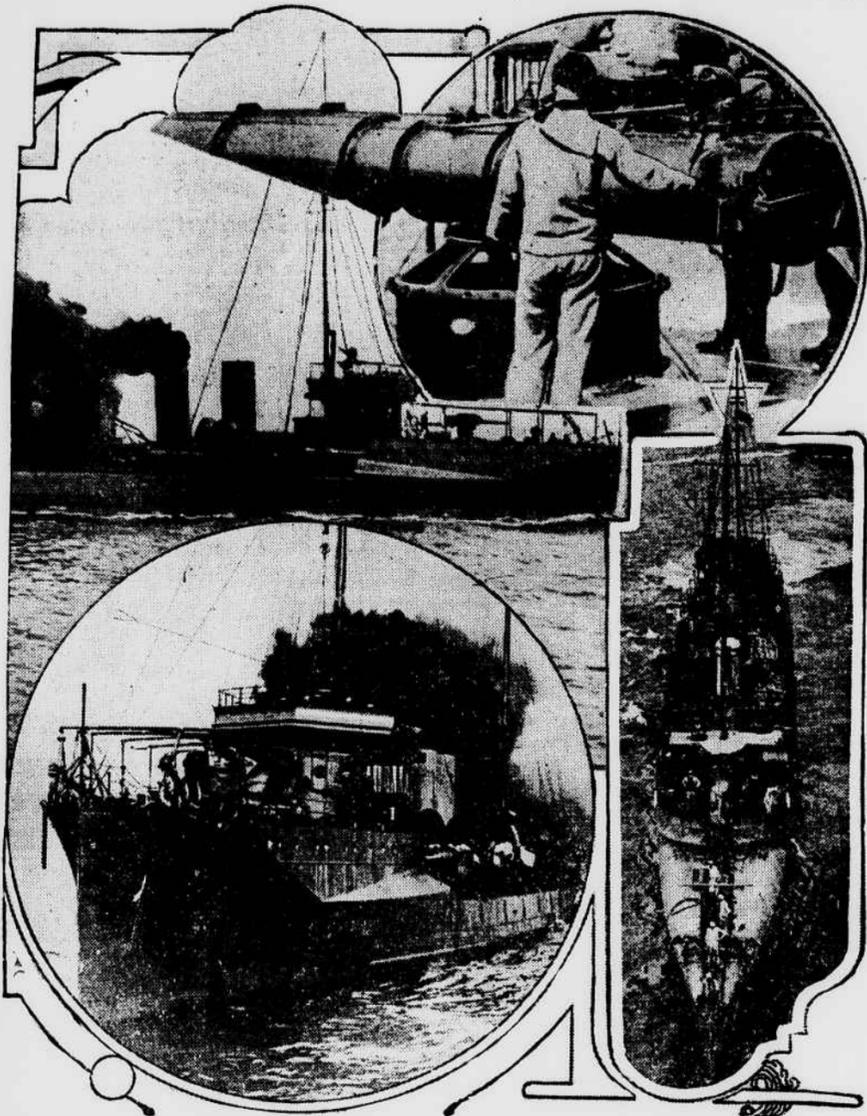


Uncle Sam Now Realizes Importance of Destroyers



We Are Now Reorganizing This Branch of Our Service—The Naval Battles of the Present War Have Proved That These Swift Ships Are Indispensable. We Have Forty-five, and Twelve Are Building.

At Top.—Destroyer Ericsson Speeding at Thirty Knots an Hour and Torpedo Tube on a Destroyer. At Bottom.—The Ericsson Emitting Dense Smoke While Speeding; These Black Clouds Safely Conceal Her From an Enemy. Birdseye View of United States Destroyer Worden.

The construction and equipment of ships of war, and its influence upon naval architecture is certain to be most marked. For this reason it is well to examine this experience from the point of view of the different classes of vessels.

This is particularly true of the destroyer. Originally the function of this ship was the destruction of small or torpedo craft. Later on it came to be regarded in the light of a torpedo carrier which could be employed to attack the larger vessels of a fleet. How has the war affected these views of its purpose and utility?

As far as the first is concerned, there have been some interesting examples of its use. Perhaps the best is the action off the Dutch coast on Oct. 17, 1914, between a British destroyer division of the L type and four German craft of the S-115 type. This was an affair between outposts in which the British won by reason of their superior vessels, the bigger and more powerful L destroyers annihilating the German force.

Need of Superior Gun Power.

The essential importance of superior gun power in destroyers, as used to deal with the enemy's torpedo craft, is thus emphasized. The Oriflame type, completed in 1908, is armed with seven nine-pounders and three-pounders, which can throw a combined weight of metal of only twenty-seven pounds, whereas the L class, which are three times as large, carry three four-inch guns each, firing a total weight of metal of ninety-three pounds. The advantages of concentrated fire and heavier bursting charges possessed by the latter type are of great importance.

In considering the destroyer as a craft for use against big ships it is seen that expectations have not been realized. The theories formed during peace exercises, in which night attacks by flotillas upon battleship squadrons took a prominent place, have scarcely been borne out in actual conflict. Possibly this may be due to the fact that the movements and operations of the fleets and squadrons have not given much opportunity for destroyer attacks.

A typical occurrence of the kind, however, was that in which the battleship Goliath was sunk off Gallipoli in May last. While this vessel was operating just inside the strait, protecting the French flank by a bombardment of the Turkish positions, the Turkish destroyer Muavenet-i-Millet, commanded by a German officer, Lieut. Commander Firlie, crept down under cover of the darkness, from Chumuk and got off three torpedoes in as many minutes, the Goliath being sunk with nearly all on board. This was the first and, up to the present, the only attack of the kind in the war. In the Heligoland light action it was said torpedoes were used, but if so they had no decisive result, the fight being decided by gunfire.

No Destroyers at the Falklands.

It was assumed before the war that destroyers invariably would accompany fleets and squadrons to sea both for the defense of the latter and to brush away hostile torpedo craft. It is no-

tionable, however, that neither Rear Admiral Craddock nor Vice Admiral Sturdee had destroyers with him at Coronel and the Falklands, although there were plenty of large seagoing vessels which might have accompanied such squadrons. In the case of the Coronel battle, moreover, unless the weather was too bad, a small flotilla of destroyers might have had a very potent effect on the result. Remembering it was evening before action was joined, the knowledge that destroyers were present probably would have had a disturbing influence on the German admiral's mind and obliged him to keep off for his own safety.

In the action off the Dogger bank in January both Vice Admiral Beatty and Admiral Hipper had destroyers with them. But on neither side was an attack delivered, so far as is known, or if one was made it was unsuccessful. The value of a screen of destroyers to keep off hostile torpedo craft and submarines was shown, however, when the Lion was disabled.

But if the destroyer has not done much along the lines anticipated in peace time it has proved its utility in many other ways. It is the handmaid of the modern fleet. It can be used for patrol work, for defending harbors and bases, for dispatch carrying, for reconnaissance purposes and for conveying transports and other vessels, while it has shown up to great advantage in saving life in action. Hundreds of seamen saved from the ships torpedoed in the Dardanelles are thankful for the skill and daring exhibited by the crews of the destroyers in coming to their rescue. Unfortunately the squadron of Admiral Cressy when attacked by the U-9 a year ago had been deprived of its destroyer escort by bad weather.

Mine Sweeping One of Craft's Duties. Mine sweeping is another duty which has been entrusted to the destroyer when occasion demanded, with good results.

Furthermore, the destroyer is a wholesome deterrent to the submarine. Instances of how it can deal with the "U" craft were revealed when the losses of the U-8 and the U-12 were announced. Count von Reventlow has admitted that "the greatest enemies of the submarines are the swift destroyers," and when all the facts are known the important work done by the British and allied flotillas will be at once recognized.

It would appear, therefore, that if it has been disappointing in some respects the destroyer has proved valuable, even indispensable, in others, and the future of the type seems assured. Before the war a decline in the building of destroyers had begun, the explanation being that its two main functions were being usurped by the large submarine and the light cruiser. The prediction has been made both by Admirals Fisher and Bacon and possibly by American naval officers that even if this was the case the destroyers still would be needed as the satellites of the ships composing the battle squadron. The war apparently is justifying this view.

Topics of the Sport World

By SQUARE DEAL

Maier Expects to Race Again.

Although he has been out of the saddle for more than two years, with the exception of a single mount, which he accepted last September at Newmarket, racing men in England are hoping that Danny Maier, the justly famed American jockey, will so far have recovered his health by next spring as to be able to take up his vocation, at which he stood at the top from the time of his advent in England in September, 1900.

In eleven of the thirteen years following that time he was outside the first three leading riders in England but twice, the first of these being in 1903, when he was nearly killed in a motorcar accident, which kept him out of the saddle for several months, and again in 1905.

A glance at his list of winning mounts, extending over the eleven years in which he was among the first three, develops the fact that he rode 1,237 winners, with his greatest year's winnings occurring in 1908, when he was first on the list, with 139.

In 1910, when he finished second to E. Wootton, a lightweight lad from Australia, who was first, with 137 wins, Maier scored 127 victories, while in the preceding year, when he was again second, he tallied 116 wins. In 1904 and again in 1913, when he was third and first respectively, his string showed 115 first places.

Brothers Form a Nine.

Nine brothers make up a ball team in Bode, Ia. The family name is Sorlein. The oldest member of the team is thirty-four, the youngest fifteen.

Three of the boys are cashiers of banks; another is president of a bank. Three are farmers, and two others are students.

Wrestlers From All Over.

Penn's wrestling squad contains athletes from all parts of the world. The most prominent is Mike Dorizas, the big Greek, who held the intercollegiate heavyweight championship.

Another Greek grappler is in the squad—Melakis, a light-heavyweight. There are Greeks, an Australian, Italian, a Chinaman and more than 100 American born lads trying for positions on the red and blue team.

Julian Maehett of Radnor, the former Cornell wrestler, has been engaged as coach. He won the 125 pound intercollegiate title in 1911-12. He succeeds John Craig, who gave up the position to go into business.

Lear Beans Dodger, Declines Cigars. King Lear, the college twirler with the Cincinnati Reds, paid a visit to a carnival show in Muncie, Ind., where

they were offering three cigars to any one hitting a negro with his head through a hole in the canvas. Lear beamed the black three times and knocked him out. The King, however, refused to smoke the cigars.

Cochran Some Billiardist.

Several billiard experts who have watched the playing of Welker Cochran, the boy wonder, in his exhibition games with Firman Cassagnol, the French champion, are of the opinion that in a few years he will succeed Willie Hoppe as the greatest of all billiard players. Cochran hails from Manson, Ia., and is the youngest member of the Billiard Players' league.

His marvelous skill with the cue has placed him among the foremost players of the world at the early age of seventeen. This wonderful lad comes from the ranks of the newsboys. He began to play billiards six years ago. At that time he was selling papers and putting in his spare hours at the



Photo by American Press Association. Welker Cochran, New Billiard Wonder.

billiard table. He liked the game, and it was not long before he knew that he could play it.

Then he went to Chicago, where he soon became a real sensation. There he was taught the finer points of the game and developed into the most phenomenal player of recent years. He has shown sufficient skill with the cue to give promise of winning the world's honors from Hoppe. His friends believe that he will succeed.

THE FIRST SKYSCRAPER.

It Was Designed by a Savoy Architect Three Centuries Ago.

Credit for the first skyscraper built in this country is generally conceded to Chicago. It was built in the "loop district" of that city in 1886, from plans by Holabird & Roche. The first example of lofty building in New York city was the structure at 50 Broadway, designed by Bradford Lee Gilbert in 1888. A few years later both these wonders became insignificant and practically forgotten because they were so greatly outdone by succeeding skyscrapers. But these were not the initial efforts, for a skyscraper was designed nearly three centuries ago, many generations before the discovery of the steel cage system of this day.

Jacques Perret, an architect of Chambéry, Savoy, is the accredited author of plans for an eleven story building, 261 feet in height, which must have had twice the space between floors, for today eleven stories are crowded within a height of 150 feet. Perret's building was planned to be 100 feet long and 140 feet wide, with supporting walls twelve feet thick at the base.

While never executed, the project of Perret in many ways was a remarkable prophetic vision. Evidently it was intended for dwelling purposes, for in describing the project he wrote, "This great and excellent edifice can accommodate comfortably 500 people."—New York Post.

NO EXCUSE FOR "AIN'T."

It Is About the Worst Contraction in the English Language.

"Ain't" is an improper abbreviation of "are not." British writers spell it "a'n't," which properly indicates its derivation. Americans make it an inclusive offense, using it for "am not" and "is not," as well as for "are not." It is unquestionably the worst instance of slovenliness in the common speech of today.

Yet it is by no means universal or even common use. It will slip occasionally from refined lips, always with a jar to the enunciator, as well as to the hearer. But the habitual user of "ain't" is careless of refinement. He may be an excellent citizen who never beats his wife nor kicks the cat. But there is likely to be something slipshod about him somewhere. For "ain't" is needless, as well as encephalonic. It fills no void and supplies no need.

English observers complain superciliously of the laxness of American speech. American observers who have listened to the marvels of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Devonshire and other shire dialects are inclined to resent any assumption of British superiority. But it is none the less desirable to eliminate our own linguistic shams, and of these "ain't" is the most deplorable.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

INDELIBLE MARKING.

Advantages of Using Just Ordinary Blueprint Solution.

There are many occasions upon which it is necessary to mark linen or wearing apparel indelibly with one's name and address, yet the ink sold for this purpose is not always convenient to use or attractive in appearance, says the American Boy.

A very good substitute is the ordinary blueprint powder, sold by any photographic dealer, a thick solution being made and used just as the ordinary ink would be. Instead of fixing this by the use of a hot iron, it is made permanent simply by washing in several changes of cold water. When thoroughly fixed the writing will appear in a very pretty shade of blue. Should you prefer, a rubber stamp may be used instead of a pen. In this case a little glycerine should be mixed with the solution, which should be spread upon a clean cloth or blotter. This is then used as an inking pad for the stamp.

Aside from its convenience marking with blue print solution has the advantage that traces of the writing or any stains caused by it may be removed if desired by the application of a solution of tannin.

The Two Angels.

The following allegory is told among the Turks:

Every man has two guardian angels, one on his right shoulder and one on his left. In doing good the angel on the right shoulder notes it down and sets a seal upon it, for what is done is done forever. When evil is committed the angel on the left shoulder writes it down, but he waits until midnight before he seals it. If by that time the man bows his head and says, "Gracious Allah, I have sinned; forgive me!" the angel blots out the fault, but if not he seals it at midnight, and then the angel on the right shoulder weeps.

Shall Woman Propose?

Of course women should propose. It is women who change their entire lives by matrimony; it is women who take on colossal responsibility by matrimony. The woman should surely be allowed to choose the man for whom she feels herself able to work and give.

Men propose; men have had it all in their own hands up to now, and if they have married the wrong woman they have only themselves to blame for it.—Women of the World.

Other Way Round.

"Circumstances alter cases," said the lawyer gravely. "Yep," said the client. "But in my case it's the circumstances that I'm hiring you to alter."—Detroit Free Press.

The Sunday School Lesson

Text of the lesson, Acts ix, 32-43; Golden Text, Tit. ii, 7.

We leave Saul at Tarsus, his native town, for a time and return for a few lessons to Peter as the human instrument through whom the risen and ascended Christ continues to prove that he is alive and the same Jesus. The one only thing that believers are on earth for is to magnify the Lord and glorify him in all things and win people to him. Unless we are turning people to him we are not magnifying him, for when he is lifted up before people in our lives by word or deed he who was lifted up on the cross for us will draw unto himself all whom the Father has given unto him to form his body. We must think of Peter as in chapter viii, 25, preaching the word of the Lord wherever he went to save sinners and to strengthen and comfort the saints.

So he came to Lydda and was used by the Lord to give health to a man called Aeneas, who had kept his bed eight years, being palsied. His words to him were, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole; arise and make thy bed." He was made whole and arose immediately, and one result was that all who dwelt there, seeing this miracle, turned to the Lord. I have often thought that perhaps the Lord would still heal more people if he saw that the restored health would glorify him or win others to him. He knows whom he can trust with health or trials and which will be best for the person intrusted with either. When Lazarus was allowed to die it was that in some way the Son of God might be glorified (John xi, 4). The man of John ix, 3, was born blind that the works of God should be made manifest in him. If only we can say "I have glorified thee on the earth" we shall have his "Well done."

Turning to Peter at Joppa, we are introduced to a saint, called Dorcas, who while she lived was full of good works and alms deeds which she did. She was not full of talk about good works which might be done, nor did she spend her time telling of alms deeds which she knew that others were able to do and ought to do, but she was in the Lord's hand to be used by him, as the needle was in her hand a willing instrument. Good works are prepared beforehand for each believer to walk in (Eph. ii, 10), not in any way to add to our safety which is wholly due to the blood of Jesus Christ, his finished work, but as an evidence to people that we are indeed his workmanship. Good works are not necessary to God to prove to him our faith, for he reads the heart, but

the good works of believers are good and profitable unto men who cannot read the heart (Tit. iii, 8).

This faithful saint became sick and died. She departed to be with Christ, which is far better than continuing here. She was absent from the body and present with the Lord. She rested here for her labors (Phil. i, 23; 11 Cor. v, 8; Rev. xiv, 13). Consider this well and then note the conduct of these disciples at Joppa. Two men were sent to Lydda to find Peter and bring him without delay, hoping that he might bring Dorcas back to them from the dead. This was all very natural, and the same desire prevails everywhere today, as a rule, to have loved ones come back to earth even though we know that they have gone to be with Christ and have the gain, the very far better. But quietly consider it. When our loved ones on earth go away for a few days or weeks or months to rest or for their health, and we know that they are well and happy, what would it be but utter selfishness on the part of those left at home to send for them to come back after a day or two, saying, "Oh, I am so lonely! I can't bear to have you away. Come right back to me."

Now, what was the difference in this case? I hope that I am not misjudging those weeping widows, but as I see them showing the coats and garments which Dorcas had made I am wondering a little if they wanted her back to do some more sewing for them when perhaps she had simply worked herself to death for them. I can almost imagine the Lord Jesus saying to Dorcas after she had reached her heavenly home and was enjoying something of the bliss of paradise: "Dorcas, they are asking to have you come back to earth for awhile, but I leave it to you. I'll be glad to have you stay, for I love to have my redeemed ones with me in glory (John xvii, 24), but if you are willing to go back for a time I will let you bring others with you." I think that would decide Dorcas to return, and we know that by her return to the earth many believed in the Lord (verse 42).

The result was the same in the case of Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha, for we read that "by reason of him many of the Jews went away and believed on Jesus" (John xii, 11). The man who found himself in torment after death wanted some one to warn his brothers who were still on earth, lest they should come to the same awful place (Luke xvi, 27, 28). So it is not difficult to think that some might be willing to come back from heaven if they could take others to that place of bliss.