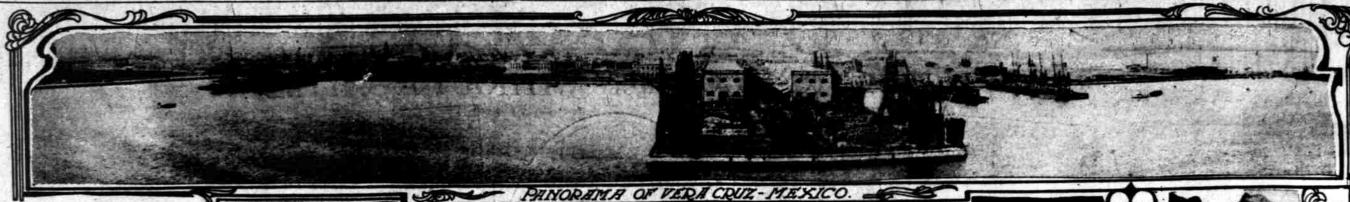
Life on Greyhound on Way to Front Told by J. P. Annin



OF MANY WIVES

Officers and Jackies on the Michigan Were Slated for Home Visits.

WERE IN MEXICO TWICE

Joy of Near Action and Pain of Adieu Mark Third Departure.

SUPERIORS "BOOST" RECRUITS

Show Desire to Advance Them-"Fifteen-straight" Cigars Cost Only 7 Cents Aboard.

By JOSEPH P. ANNIN.

Staff Correspondent of The Washington Herald.

Board U. S. S. Michigan, day, April 15.-Twenty hours and sixteen minutes after orders to coal and clear for Tampico, twenty hours of sleepless, nerve-racking, straining activity, the staccato notes of the bridge ring out, "officers quarters," then "assembly;" a the junior ensigns, the latest recruits score or more of wives and sweethearts from Annapolis, mess, the talk turned on our cruise. Conclusions were almost as are pushed into the driving rain across our cruise. gangplank, and the U. S. S. Michigan, our first Dreadnought and a 'crack" ship in her fifth year of commission, is ready for sea again.

While a tearful, waving group gathers While a tearful, waving group gathers on the deck of the battleship Idaho undergoing repairs across the dock, for a last sight of the ship which bears husbands, brothers, sweethearts southward, orders to "let go that line" came from officers in glistening black oliskins, and officers in control of the ship which bear such ward, orders to "let go that line" came from officers in glistening black oliskins, and the ship while so the ship with the so for publication. The views of these officers in the same from officers in glistening black oliskins, and the same from the sa to the shrill whistles of navy tugs, 16,000 ions of gray destruction side along the Philadelphia dock, ripping out five great eighteen-inch "bumpers" like so many

to the shrill whistles of navy tugs, 16,000 tons of gray destruction side along the Philadelphia dock, ripping out five great eighteen-inch "bumpers" like so many toothpicks.

From Capt. Nibiack to the rawest of 172 recruits from the naval training station at Chicago, every manjack aboard is on the quive vive. Rumor after rumor, all of sensational import, many bearing the stamp of authority, and all cagerly assimilated and passed along, tell of the fine hand of a first-class power in the present movement. Japan is in every one's mind. "Japan is well stand the acid test of logic. result from this movement the ships would be carrying a sorely tried and thoroughly disgusted complement of of-

Since July 1, 1913, the Michigan has in the United States less than forty days. In that time she has twice been to Mexico. But recently she return-ed from a six months' stay at Vera Cruz. to the ship. She had laid up at the Philadelphis Navy Yard only ten days, by the enemy to returned from "target practice."

Except for the hope of action, Mexico is one of the last places in the world. men want to see. Tampico quite the last.
I didn't know this when I boarded ship
and ducked below the cluttered decks to

the junior officers' messroom a few hours before sailing. Four couples were there, finishing their luncheon as I sat down.
"Well," I said, happily, following introductions all around by Ensign E. F. Enright, "I suppose you gentlemen are

naval wives and one who expects to be answered in unison, "They had better, not be glad." Four future ad-mirals promptly supplemented, "We are

Three young wives had come from faroff parts of the United States in anticipa-tion of a long deferred visit with three young husbands. The latter had been on set them to the fleet for this cruises

"Married ten months and I have seen my husband less than forty days," summed up one young naval wife re-

Many Disappointments.

the rain-swept deck. Later I heard is this new bunch of 175 upstanding the same hard luck stories from ward- youngsters from the Middle West. room and general mess. First Class
Gunner's Mate Leonard was to have
been married tomorrow. Commander
Althouse, our executive officer, had
packed to leave ship to commence his
the "loosest." long-deferred shore duty. Junior Lieut, James Garfield Stevens was watch-ing the progress of a dangerously sick wife in Norfolk when recalled. And

But don't let these men be put down as complaining. They weren't. These are the cold facts, and if they do not regard this cruise as a pleasure junkthese are the reasons: Not one ould have avoided the trip if he could,



the captain decided to anchor for the night because of thick weather. Watches were set, lamps lighted, and the Michigan rolled gently with the ground swell. At our first dinner in the wardroom, where all officers except the captain and varied as they were numerous. Belie was general, however, that something be yond Huerta's refusal to salute the American flag is behind this quick rush of our sea fighters to the Gulf. Naval officers, however, feeling they

On Board U. S. S. Michigan, April 17 .-

the blue waters of the Atlantic at La Barra. The river cuts out a sandy promontory. A small railroad runs up from La Barra to Tampico. Between La Barra and Tampico, on both sides of the Panuco River, are huge oll wells, some Panuco River, are huge oll wells, some another, expressed his loyalty to his ship and officers.

get within three miles of the shore. Gunboats and dispatch boats may run up the river around Tampico if they desire. One possibility, in case the taking of Tampico should be ordered and the Mexicans should decide to put up some form of resistance, is that these oil wells may be lighted, the contents of the mammoth tanks ignited and run down the river and glad to get away."

It seemed the natural thing to say. It over the promontory, thereby destroying millions of dollars' worth of foreign

complement of men, 175 blood-raw recruits shore less than ten days when they were again ordered to Mexico.

"Married ten months and I have seen my husband less than forty days."

In this and other vessels. They are a my husband less than forty days." cers say it is the best-looking aggregation

f recruits they have seen. In fact, I have never before seen in collection of 900 men doing work similar to that performed by the "jackie" and i apologized, commiserated, said to that performed by the "jackie" and mean things about every one I could his officer, so clean cut, healthy, intelliposaibly blame, and climbed to the comparatively cheerful atmosphere of men present. And not least to be praised the rain sweet dock. Later I heard in this new bunch of 175 pretarding.

A "Loose" Ship.

In company with two other newspaper men, I am a member of the wardroom mess, comprising all commissioned offi-cers on the ship, except the captain and the eight junior ensigns. I have listened ening disquietude amidships. sions between officers as to the merits of certain men, discussions which show an intimate study by the officers of the men

wireless apparatus.

The officers will have worked out exactly the part that any integral unit of a landing force would have to play, and they will have their men trained to play that part. In addition, having been with few exceptions, at Tampico and Vera Cruz before, the officers know just about what form the attack will take and they are prepared to play their part in the action.

Tampico lies six miles inland on a muddy, sluggish river which beclouds and they are prepared to play their part in the action.

Tampico lies six miles inland on a All except one returned to the ship. Notified of the orders back to Mexico, with the blue waters of the Atlantic at Latter than the prospect of another six months' con-

and officers.

To me one of the many calls for admiration came from the condition of the ship. We pulled out of Philadelphia a Large vessels like the Michigan cannot get within three miles of the shore. Gunboats and dispatch boats may run up the river around Tampico if they desire. One work was black, iron work discolored. We had all the marks of a ship which

ing strain for twenty-four hours, jur into tarness for the unpleasant task of cleaning ship on a few hours' sleep. For after knocking off at 6 o'clock last night they were turned out again at 4 this morning to get under way.

Ship Rolls Heavily.

We gropped the pliot at 9:30 this mornng and struck out boldly at our most conomical speed, a shade under thirteen

The Michigan is not an easy sailing ship. Because of the tonnage exaction made in authorizing her construction her superstructure is piled high in the center The Michigan is known as a "loose" ship in the navy. Her men say she is the "loosest." Far from being a term of reproach, this is a distinct tribute to the esprit de corps on board. It means that in the excellent understanding between officers and men, the mutual interest in each other and in their ship, and the high standard of efficiency the Michigan ranks highest. seasick passengers. There are two other

The Low Cost of Living



GREWSOME SCENE IN VERA CRUZ

BADGERS SHIP STEAMING-INTO VERA CRUZ

largely with small comforts and neces- Lamar told me, average \$3,990 a month in sities for men and officers—cigars, smoking and chewing tobaccos, candy—at
what seems a ridiculously low cost.
The canteen is one of the greatest
replenished my wardrobe there. I paid to Before uses link of this vast ship had been holystoned over. The decks had been holystoned and scrubbed until they resembled the kitchen floor of an ideal housekeeper. Inside the decks had been scrubbed and then coated with red shellac. Every piece of brass work had been polished; all iron work washed, even the hand-spars had been scrubbed with sand until they shone. The transformation was marvelous and the job is complete.

The canteen is one of contentment to the men, particularly when confined on ship for long duplicate in the States in amount. Socks I was able to purchase for \$2 cents a pair. For \$2 cents approximately \$6.000. This capital is furnished by the government without interest. The ship paymaster does all the buying and, as much of the material is purchased for all ships in mammoth lots, the unit of cost is materially reduced. Uncle Sam pays all the overhead charges and takes all the risk. All he asks in warrines. Each bluespacket company of marines. Each bluespacket company with the overhead charges and takes all the risk. All he asks in warrines.

return is the original capital. Profits, limited to 12 per cent go into the snip's entertainment fund. Before we left Philadelphia we took aboard for the canteen 4,000 pounds of candy—chocolate in cake, chocolate almonds, bon-bons, etc., all made according to specifications by one of the best candy manufacturers in the United States, and all sold at from 10 to 25 per

Cigara Cheap.

Paymaster H. D. Lamar took us on a special tour of inspection. I asked him what the canteen had in the way of cigars. Well, we have a cheap cigar ready the list of supplies to be sent with which we sell for 6 cents," he said, naming my favorite brand, and which I cannot afford to indulge in except on especial occasions. It is a "15-cent-straight" cigar. One of the best known "25-centstraight" brands can be purchased for 10 cents, while a "three-for-50" cigar costs

cents.

These low prices on cigars are possible because the cigars are purchased at Havana and escape customs duty. Be-cause of this there is a strict requirement that they must not only be bought on board ship, but must be consumed on the ship. This requirement was a sad blow to me. There were 50,000 cigars for

FORT ALEZA DEL ULUA VERA CRUZ.

marines. Each bluejacket company will contain fifty-four men and three officers will not contain fifty-four men and three officers will not contain fifty-four men and one officer. Three blue-jackets companies will land for skirmish work. One company under Junior _leut. seven men and one officer. Three blue-jackets companies will land for skirmish work. One company under Junior ...leut. Thomas will have four machine guns,

The men display the greatest enthu slasm in their preparations, even in such humdrum work as packing knapsacks, counting items and other similar work. The hospital steward has prepared al

the hospital company.

The men will go over the side in light marching order. They will carry only ri.es, bayonets, canteens and ammuni-tion. Knapsacks will be left behind, to be sent under special guard to whatever point the men spend their first night. Knar-sacks will contain only two days' provisions, as the bluejackets and ma rines will at all times be within eas; striking distance of the ships.

Saturday, April 19.-After a day

Dove on Board.

In their hearts they hope and believe some real fighting will come of it.

Our steaming plans call for the most consultated speed—twelve to thirteen knots an hour. This means we will not hurry particularly unless orders are changed.

The Low Cest of Living.

The Maching In their divisions and men this is one to the men alone.

Other materials in the canteen included by the mand cookies, 5,000

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The materials in the canteen included the mand cookie Other materials in the canteen included [7,000 packages of cakes and cookies, 5,000] The officer noticed him at bars of soap, 100 gross of cigarette to-bacco (cigarettes and chewing gum are passenger was discovered aboard ship in the form of a stray gray dove, closed of pipe tobacco in tins, 500 pounds of engrous prompting a turtle dove. The men discovery resembling a turtle dove. Pat, taken unawares, came back game-playing cards, safety resembling a solute and mustached Irisiman nodding drowsily at the board. The officer noticed him at the same time.

"Doyle," he said, turning on him suddenly. "Why should a soldier or sailor discovery resembling a turtle dove. The men discovery resembling a turtle dove.

When news of the apparent settlement of the difficulty was placked out of the air by the radio operator, Bryan's dove was blamed. This morning, with the clouds of war again low in the heavens, the dove was not to be found. We have left the greenish waters of the north, and in the warm Gulf Stream are surrounded for miles, as far as the eye can reach, by a rest-lessly tossing surface of dark blue, the color of Egyptian jurquoise. The men have doffed their heavy blue uniforms, the blue ackets for "whites." while the marines are wearing khaki.

JACKIES DRILLING WITH RIFLES AND COLI

Officers still stick to their "blues," but Tonight we had a band concert and eight hours in the last twenty-four. The moving picture show on the quarter spectacular work may yet be ahead, but deck from 7:30 until 9 o'clock. The twenty-four officers gathered on the properties of the concert and men in the engine room, wardroom officers gathered on the twenty-four twenty-f vided up into four companies of bluejackets in addition to one company of
marines. Each bluejacket company will
contain fifty-four men and three omeers.

The wardroom officers gathered on the
promenade deck, one level higher than
the quarter deck, and the junior offieen knots for twenty-four hours, have
occupied chairs under the big 12-inch
seven men and mast. The fun was almost hilarious. and the comments of the men as the night. All worked late and arose early pictorial stories unfolded were as Under the tension, mind and body refused company, Capt. Creecy commanding, will pictorial stories unfolded were have one machine gun.

"Education" Unpopular.

One of the principal topics of discuscion abroad is the new order of Secretary Daniels requiring one hour and a quarter instruction for enlisted men daily. The order is intensely unpopular among the men. The officers are not enthusiastic about it. The ridiculous situations it creates give the men their only relief and the officers their laughsafter school. I attended several sessions or parts of sessions, for I was welcome only so long as I could keep my face straight.

Picture a class of tars, some beardless youths, some gray and scared with time, drooping, gathered around mess tables and listening to an analysis of saturday, April 18.—After a day of tables and listening to an analysis of surponse, owing to the uncertainty the psychology of patriotism by a boy-ish-looking ensign. I was watching such morning received news of Huerta's demand for a simultaneous salute and President Wilson's prompt rejection of the normal transfer of the same time.

AUTOMATICS EN ROUTE

takes eighty twelve-inch jumps a minute and a dog pursuing takes forty thirty-inch jumps, how long will it take for the dog to catch the rabbit? Figure that out and I'll get the answer

that out and I'll get the answer from you a little later."

The officer a little later:

"Have you that answer, Johnson."

Johnson, awaking from a comfortable

Why not?"

"The dog got tired." Here is a sample of composition. The ubject is "Buffalo:" "Huffalo is the only town I like, and

Enlisted men's schools, as far as sur-face conditions indicate, are helping meither the men nor the eaprit de corps

neither the men nor the esprit de corp-of the navy. Men are required to study subjects in which they have not the least interest, which will not of themselves aid the men to promotion, and which discourage the courses of instruction in useful lines that always have been open to the enlisted men and in which the officers took a real interest.

Orders Are Changed.

Vera Cruz is now less than two hours off. In half an hour our 300 men, clad in home-dyed ducks, will be lined up on deck or a last inspection and held at the ship drops anchor. Hell-immune flends, working in a temperature varying from 120 to 190 degrees, have shot the Michigan ahead of her schedule nearly

No one got more than a brief nap last

Things moved rapidly yesterday. Monday night at a dinner to newspaper men in his cabin Capt. Niblack informed us that all of Badger's fleet had been ordered to Vera Cruz. We were then pointing for Tampico. Yesterday morning orders came from Badger to refuse all press radiograms. A little later the Navy Department approved a proposal of Surg. J. A. Murphy, of our ship, that one suit of "whites" for each bluejacket and officer be dyed brown with a chemical prepaous. A few minutes later out of the air Ensign Enright, the radio officer, and Chief Operator Cronin picked the infor-mation that Admiral Pietcher had been ordered to take the custom-house and vicinity at Vera Cruz.

nediately Capt, Nibiack passed the word for fifteen knots, two better than we had been steaming. Four more boilunder Chief Blakely and Ensign Jeans, shoved her up to sixteen knots in their enthusiasm. After a few hours of nervestraining, last-minute preparation, came the news of the taking of Vera Cruz, four dead, twenty wounded. Orders came to make all speed, and under a 24-inch

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE.