



FAMOUS HEADLINE HUNTER

FLOUDD GIBBONS

ADVENTURERS CLUB

"U-Boat 151"

By FLOYD GIBBONS,

HERE'S a lad with an amazing story. He is Thomas P. Carey of Brooklyn, N. Y., and the experience he had was one that has happened to mighty few people in the world. Tom—an American—had the rare thrill of cruising on a German submarine while it raided our shipping along the Atlantic coast.

That, of course, happened during the war. On May 22, 1918, Tom shipped as a seaman on the schooner Hattie Dunn, sailing out of Charleston, S. C., bound for New York with a cargo of cotton.

The third day out, off the Virginia Capes, a submarine broke the surface of the water and fired a shot across the Hattie Dunn's bow. The skipper heaved to and dropped the topsail. Tom says that all that happened so quickly that, standing there on the Hattie's deck, he hardly realized that anything exciting was happening. He little dreamed he was about to start out on a great adventure.

Blew the Hattie Up in a Hurry.

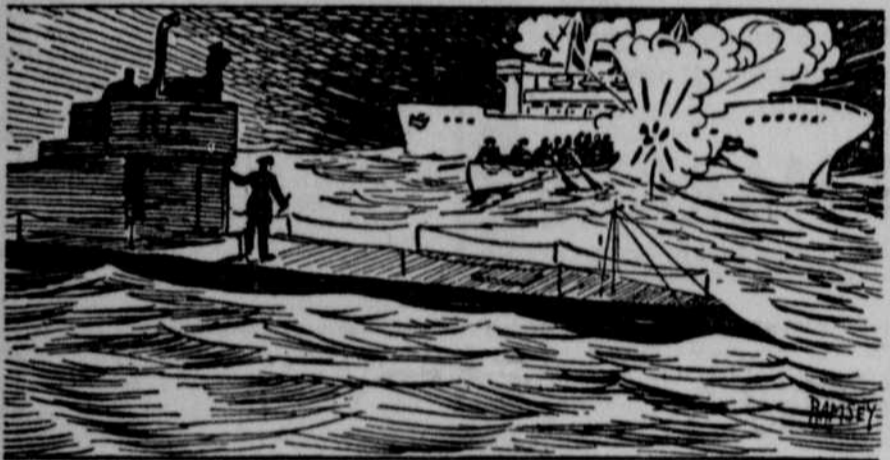
The submarine swung a boat over the side and an officer and four German sailors boarded the Hattie. Just then another schooner appeared on the horizon and bedlam broke loose. The sub's commander shouted across the water to the searching party. The searching party ordered the Hattie's crew into the lifeboats. Hurriedly a charge of TNT was set off in the Hattie's innards, and as the Hattie went down, her crew, in their boats, watched the submarine pursue and sink the second schooner.

The second schooner was the Hauppauge, bound for Portland, Maine. When it was blown up, the sub came back. The crews of both schooners were herded aboard the undersea craft. Tom then learned that he was on the German submarine U-151, commanded by a skipper named von Nostitz.

There were 17 prisoners aboard, but Tom was the only one who could speak German. "So I went to the skipper," Tom says, "and pleaded with him to set us adrift in the small boats. He refused to do it because he didn't want it known that a submarine was present in American waters. He told me he had a task to complete. He said he had planted 50 mines in Chesapeake bay, and had 50 more to plant in the mouth of the Delaware."

Trying Time for the Poor Prisoners.

At that time there was room enough aboard to accommodate all the prisoners without crowding. The ship submerged, and that was an uneasy moment for a lot of captured sailors who had never been under



A Charge of TNT Was Set Off.

the water before. They hadn't been down long when the periscope watch sighted another schooner—the Edna, bound from Philadelphia to Santiago with a cargo of gasoline. That was captured and blown up and six more prisoners were taken aboard.

While Tom acted as interpreter, the commander questioned the newcomers. They assured him there was no news abroad of a submarine lurking in American waters. Tom says all of them gave von Nostitz advice about the shore line. They knew only too well that their own lives depended on his navigation. It was a trying time for the prisoners, and their nerves were frayed to the breaking point. For in addition to the hazards of living on a submarine which might be sunk any moment by an American battleship, they were remembering things they'd read in the papers—tales of subs that had shelled life-boats full of helpless men—prisoners tortured, killed—of men shot up through torpedo tubes and left to drown in the empty ocean.

Still, the German crew seemed friendly and hospitable. They shared their bunks with the prisoners and made them as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. The U-151 was running toward Delaware bay, and at 9:15 that night the watch sighted Overall lightship. Then, without warning the boat gave a terrific lurch.

Disabled by Striking Bottom.

The lurch took Tom completely off his feet. The boat bumped two or three times, then leaped toward the surface. There was general pandemonium aboard. The officers were yelling all kinds of orders. Some of the prisoners were praying, some yelling, while others were so stunned they couldn't move. The engineer cried, "She won't stay down. I can't control her." They had struck bottom and disabled the steering apparatus!

The ship was spinning around, helpless in an eddy current. Lights were looming up ahead, and any one of them might be an American patrol boat. A large steamer passed a few hundred feet away. Two more passed almost as closely. The current was pulling them toward the lightship. "We could hear its bell, and it sounded like a death knell to all of us," says Tom.

Down below, the crew was working with a fine frenzy. At last came the order to close the hatches and dive again. The break had been repaired.

They Cut Two Trans-Atlantic Cables.

The sub lay on the bottom for a few hours, then came up in a thick night fog to plant the remaining mines. At ten the next morning they were on the bottom again while the crew took a nap. That evening they set out for New York. On May 28, they were off Fire island, to cut the trans-Atlantic cables with a newly devised instrument. After two days' angling, they had cut two of them—one to South America and another to Europe.

From there the sub went back to Delaware bay, where it took the S. S. Winneconne and the schooner Isabel B. Wiley. The lifeboats of both ships were drawn alongside, and then it was that Commander von Nostitz told Tom the time had come for a friendly farewell. The prisoners put off in motor lifeboats, and landed at Lewes, Del., after eight days of captivity—eight days in which they witnessed—and lived through—a war-time epic of the sea.

We were all supposed to hate the Germans during the war, but Tom found it pretty hard to hate Commander von Nostitz. As a matter of fact, he and Tom parted the best of friends, and to this day they keep up a correspondence. A war may separate a couple of nations—but there's nothing like a good adventure to bring them together.

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Shoe-Bill Stork
This shoe-bill stork is native to the White Nile. He spears fish with the curved hook on the end of his beak, or uses the beak like a dredge to scoop minnows from the bottom. His long legs are admirably adapted to wading. They also can support him motionless for hours while waiting for an unwary fish to swim within range of his hungry beak.

Camels' Sense of Direction
Camels possess a wonderful sense of direction to any place where once they have watered and fed, and for the first two or three days after leaving a village or oasis, the camels often try to turn back, but once away in the desert, they stick close to the caravan, and thereafter have no need to be roped—instinct tells them that to stray means death.

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington.—For the first month since May the Commerce department reported that the nation's foreign traders chalked up in September an excess of exports over imports.

The report listed September exports at \$219,967,000, compared with \$198,803,000 for September a year ago. Imports were \$215,525,000 and \$161,647,000, respectively, thus making an export margin for the month of \$4,442,000. The export balance was smaller than for September, 1935, however, when the excess was \$37,156,000.

Although a \$33,156,000 edge on the import side was reported for the first nine months of this year, compared with a \$66,496,000 excess of exports in the corresponding 1935 period, Secretary Roper told reporters this might be changed to a balance of exports before the end of the year. He explained that cotton and several other commodities are exported most heavily in the last quarter.

Exports \$1,732,314,000

For the nine-month period exports were \$1,732,314,000, compared with \$1,568,271,000 in the corresponding 1935 period. The respective import totals were \$1,765,450,000 and \$1,501,775,000. At his press conference Roper called attention to increasing volume of aggregate foreign trade, predicting that combined exports and imports would total between \$4,800,000,000 and \$5,000,000,000 for 1936. This would exceed the volume for any year since 1930.

The commerce chief expressed the view that "our economic progress is as well, if not better, reflected in our imports than in our exports."

He added: "Many of our more important manufacturing industries are dependent upon foreign sources for certain of their raw materials. Therefore, one of the best indications of expanding activity is an increase in our purchases of essential foreign materials."

Roper said that "a number of agricultural commodities, particularly wheat and meats, have been imported in increased quantities, chiefly due to the temporary conditions created by the drought."

Aids Road Safety

A record year in accident-prevention work has been reported, one year after the start of the Red Cross drive to eliminate death and injuries on the highways.

Personnel has been trained and 2,000 first-aid stations established along principal thoroughfares throughout the country. Mobile emergency first-aid units also have been established through the co-operation of state police, state highway departments, public service companies and commercial companies operating carriers on highways.

Within the next year, Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson, chairman of the Red Cross, said, it is hoped to have a much larger number of stations and mobile units in operation.

He also announced that new records were set during the year ended June 30 in all phases of the first aid and life-saving program sponsored by the Red Cross.

He pointed to the "alarming" number of persons who lose their lives or suffer permanent injuries while engaged in agricultural pursuits or within the supposed safety of their homes.

"We believe such conditions unwarranted," he went on, "and we are conducting a program of education among children in schools as well as among adults, and especially parents."

A week has been designated as a period for special concentration against home and farm accidents.

"The Red Cross is prepared, throughout the coming months, to carry this fight against death and injury to every corner of our country," he declared.

Bank Assets Climb

Assets of the 14,059 federally insured banks amounted to \$53,578,392,000 as of June 30, the Federal Deposit Insurance corporation announced. Total deposits were \$46,625,749,000.

ty on account of acceptances, \$159,267,000; borrowed securities, \$1,000,000; and other assets, \$319,091,000.

Liability Side

On the liability side of the ledger the banks increased their total deposits by \$2,500,128,000 during the six months. Demand deposits totaled \$21,463,913,000 on June 30, representing an increase of \$1,389,850,000 during the six months, while time deposits were \$13,005,697,000, an increase of \$510,138,000.

The capital account of the banks aggregated \$6,298,588,000. Of this \$3,212,615,000 represented capital stock, notes and debentures, and \$2,042,072,000 was surplus.

For the first time the FDIC reported that the capital investment of the Reconstruction Finance corporation in the insured banks was \$782,434,000. Of these federal advances 1,872 national banks were chocked up with \$411,107,000. There were 336 state banks, members of the federal reserve system, owing \$170,682,000 to the RFC and 3,299 banks not members of the federal reserve system debtors to the RFC in the amount of \$200,645,000.

Weed Out Criminals

In 1922 civil service officials in New York first began to wonder if any federal employees had criminal records.

Upon checking the employees' records, they discovered a large number of ex-criminals on the pay roll. After authorities had weeded them out of the New York postoffice staff, which was to handle the Christmas holiday mail, its ranks were reduced by 50 per cent.

Started by the findings in New York, the civil service commissioners spread the idea of finger printing, until now all persons tentatively approved for appointments under civil service are included.

Last year, 1,635 persons applying for government jobs had criminal records. Their police histories were discovered when the bureau of investigation compared their finger prints with the Department of Justice criminal records.

Experts in approximately 1,200 cities throughout the nation take the finger prints. If job applicants temporarily approved for appointment refuse to submit to the finger print check, they are barred from appointment.

Many notorious criminals have been detected attempting to gain government positions. An embezzler who had served three years in prison for stealing funds from a post office was caught applying for work at another post office under an assumed name.

Down on the Farm

The farm population of the United States remained virtually stationary last year, the bureau of agricultural economics said in a report just issued. The number of persons living on farms January 1, 1936, was estimated at 31,809,000, as compared with 31,801,000 one year earlier.

The number of persons on farms at the beginning of this year was only slightly greater than in 1920 and was somewhat less than in 1910. Births on farms last year were estimated at 727,000, while deaths were placed at 333,000.

The fact that the total farm population did not increase materially despite the excess of births over deaths is explained by the migration of persons away from the farms. During the year it is estimated that 1,211,000 persons moved away from farms to towns and cities, and 825,000 moved from town to farm.

For the first time since 1930 every region in the country showed a net migration away from the farms except the Pacific coast, where one movement balanced the other. Thus it appears that the farms last year furnished the towns and cities with a gain in population of 386,000 and at the same time added 8,000 persons to the farm population.

Discussing the effects of the depression years on farm population, the bureau noted that between the beginning of 1930 and 1935, farm population increased by 1,632,000. Migration away from the farms during those years was comparatively light, amounting to a net loss of only 598,000 persons for the whole period.

On the other hand, during the preceding five-year period, 1925-30, mainly one of urban prosperity, the farms lost people to the cities at a rate of 600,000 annual net loss.

Farms are an important source from which new population is constantly recruited for urban centers, the bureau points out. The rate at which people leave the farms changes greatly from year to year, depending upon the relative attraction of urban jobs and opportunities.

Farm Income Gains

Increased cash receipts from the sale of principal products by farmers in four out of six regions in August as compared with August, 1935, were reported by the bureau of agricultural economics.

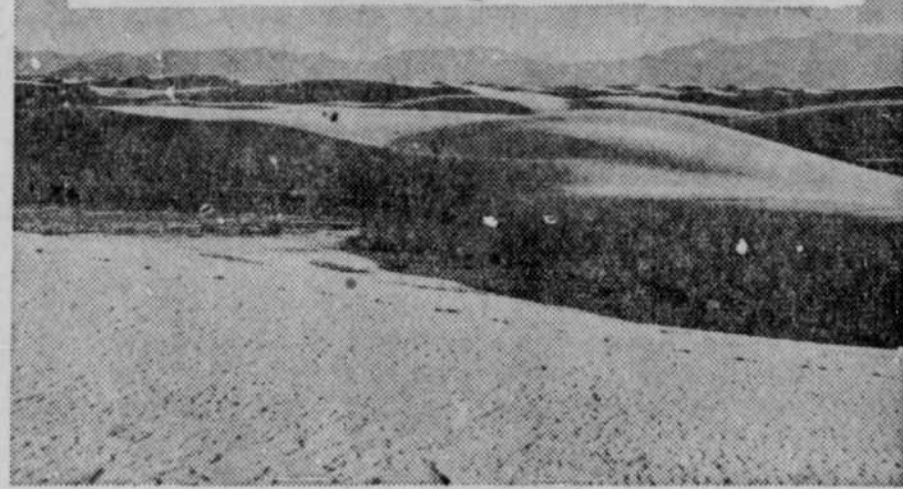
Gains ranged from 17 per cent in the Western states to 30 per cent in the West North Central states. Receipts declined 7 per cent in the South Atlantic states and 5 per cent in the South Central region.

Smaller marketings of tobacco in the South Atlantic region in August this year, as a result of the later opening of the markets for some important types of tobacco, and smaller cotton marketings in the South Central region were reported.

Gains in the cash receipts in the other four regions were due to higher prices of truck crops, potatoes, and barley.

WNU Service.

NEW MEXICO'S GYPSUM



The White Sands of Alamogordo.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

AS ONE stands upon the heights of the San Andres mountains in the neighborhood of Rhodes Pass, New Mexico, one looks out upon an ocean of white. South and east stretches a vast sea on which the glint of white-caps appears as real as the rocky shores. The view is a startling mirage. Closer inspection reveals that the billowing snowy expanse is the White Sands of Alamogordo.

The windrowlike dunes seem velvety in their softness, yet many of them are firm enough to permit motorists to roll their cars from one crest to the next in roller-coaster fashion. Some of the hills have attained a height of 100 feet, but 50 feet probably represents the average.

Curious stories of the origin of the sands have circulated since they have been known to Americans, but the truth is not less interesting than the fanciful explanations. The processes of making are going on constantly.

Underlying the Tularosa basin are beds of Permian limestone and sandstone, between the layers of which are interspersed thick beds of gypsum. Borings made in recent years reveal that the gypsum is hundreds of feet below the present valley floor and that water is encountered at depths of a thousand feet or less.

The nature of the sedimentary rocks above the water-bearing sands is favorable to upward seepage. As the water on its upward course passes through the gypsum deposits, it dissolves that material and carries a rather full load to the surface. The limestone through which the solution passes is not readily soluble; very little in addition to gypsum is carried by the rising water. When evaporation takes place at the surface a fairly pure crust of gypsum is deposited, which, under action of the atmosphere, crumbles to form crystalline grains.

The prevailing southwest wind sweeps these crystals from the surface upon which they were formed and piles them in huge drifts to the north and east of the point of origin. The wind erosion excavates basins, the flat floors of which may be 10 to 30 feet below the surface of the plain and 50 feet or more below the tops of the dunes.

Basins of Moist Sands.

Nearly everywhere in the basin floors moist sands are encountered at a depth of a few inches. Ordinarily sand erosion does not develop flat surfaces, but the flatness of these floors is manifestly caused by the water table which limits the depth to which the sand can erode.

The largest of the basins from which the sands are blown is a boggy lake bed at the south end of the dune area, but many of the smaller flat floored depressions are scattered through the area. The size of the depression apparently affects the height of the sand piles built up to the lee of it.

Hills and mountains surrounding the Tularosa basin contain gypsum, and it is evident that some of the deposit is brought from this source by surface waters that feed it to the large natural evaporation pan at the south end of the sands. Whether the source is the deeply buried beds or the visible deposits in the mountains, the processes of evaporation, crumbling, and drifting with the wind are the same. The end product is invariably beautiful, white, winnowed, and clean.

The picture afforded in this expanse of white sand is unlike anything known. The white environment has produced a notable effect upon the limited animal life of the sands, and zoologists look to this natural laboratory for possible answers to questions bearing upon adaptation. Botanists long ago turned to the White Sands as a field in which to study the responses of plants to unusual physical influences.

In places large cottonwood trees nearly covered up with sand live a strange existence, producing roots where upper branches once grew. When the sand drifts and exposes their modified anatomy, they still stand, amazing specimens, with roots interspersed with dead branches along trunks much changed as a result of long burial.

Disinterred specimens of the yucca are to be seen that have struggled in an effort to keep their heads above the shifting sands until their stems have elongated to some thirty feet.

"Red Lakes" Come and Go.

For several years the appearance and disappearance of "red lakes" in the sands have caused conjec-

ture among biologists and chemists. Studies made during the last few months have tentatively identified an organism which may be responsible for the strange color changes that take place in the waters of certain ponds and pools. Apparently the vermillion "lakes" can exist only when the water has evaporated to a condition of high salt content, for the organism is known to grow only in salt water of high concentration.

Sites once occupied by an ancient people are well known to the present residents of the region, and obscure reminders of early Spanish activity are to be seen in many places throughout the valley.

Three centuries ago Spanish explorers and missionaries frequented the Tularosa desert and wondered at its white sands. They noted the unusual chemical properties of the nearly 300 square miles of drifting gypsum and, quite likely, wished for means of transporting this abundant supply of pure alabaster to the settlements and churches a hundred miles to the north.

Recently, at the mouth of Deadman canyon in the San Andres, just west of the White Sands, a prominent son of the state of New Mexico uncovered unmistakable evidences that the Spanish Americans of a generation long dead had entered the Tularosa desert area with vehicles. Divulgence of this forgotten travel came in the form of two massive wooden wheels from an early Mexican oxcart.

If an authentic story could be woven about those relics, perhaps the period of the bullwhacker who abandoned his conveyance would be established as no earlier than the Nineteenth century. However, maps of the padres and dons definitely point to Eighteenth century routes east and west across the Tularosa as well as north and south, where the trails parallel the mountain boundaries of its basin.

Many Uses for Gypsum.

The value of these sands for plaster of paris and fireproofing material is well recognized, and repeated attempts have been made to make commercial use of them.

Gypsum finds a multitude of uses in commerce and industry. As a fertilizer and soil conditioner it is distributed as "agricultural gypsum." As "mineral white" it finds use as a filler in paper, paint and fabrics. The makers of Portland cement require it as a retarder. In sculpture and the making of decorative devices in architecture and building it is known as "alabaster." Even the school boys' crayons utilize much gypsum.

When natural gypsum is dehydrated by heat, it becomes the quick-setting cement known as "plaster of paris." About four million tons of this calcined gypsum are used each year for wall plaster or stucco. Plate-glass makers imbued their glass in plaster of paris preparatory to polishing.

Plasterboard, wallboard and gypsum lath require much gypsum each year. "Gypsum blocks" and tile are used in partitions, roof construction, and flooring, where fireproofing and sound insulation are important. Surgeons, dentists, and artists demand the finer grades of calcined gypsum for casting plaster.

Dreaded by Pioneers.

It appears on first thought that here in the nearly pure gypsum of White Sands is a veritable fortune in plaster. But Tularosa is far removed from large markets.

Old settlers of the region have watched, feared, and hated the White Sands for half a century. This, one of the world's greatest deposits of pure gypsum, has grown before their eyes, threatening homes and land that might be useful.

These pioneers—cattlemen, sheepmen, farmers, and lumbermen—had few interests outside their own business. The spreading sands, ever increasing in volume, struck dread into the stockman, who came to believe that the snowy-white mass would creep upon and envelop not only his ranch, but the towns of Alamogordo and Tularosa—now 15 to 20 miles from the heavy white sea.

With the increase in population in the little cities about the basin there came the realization that the alabaster dunes provided charming sites for church picnics, school parties, and lodge gatherings. Intimate and happy association with the sands caused fear to turn to love and pride. In 1930 the communities of Alamogordo, Las Cruces, El Paso, Carlsbad, Artesia, Roswell, Mesalero, Ruidoso, Cloudcroft, and Tularosa joined forces in an effort to create a national reservation in the White Sands.

Rug That Is Easy to Crochet in Triangles



Pattern 1240

Like to turn rug-maker for a time, and both make and design your own colorful rugs? Easy crocheted triangles joined in strips or hexagons make exciting new designs. Crochet them of rug wool, candlewicking or rags. You can make your rug any desired size. Pattern 1240 contains directions for making rugs in various arrangements; an illustration of them and of all stitches needed; material requirements; color suggestions.

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