

"Q" Decoy Ships Took Advantage of Germans' Appetite for Defenseless Boats and Sank Many Submarines

Accounts of the exploits of British decoy ships or "Q" boats, as they are called, were published in the "Daily Mirror" last night. The decoy ships, which were built in the light areas were known to but few outside the British navy.

London, Feb. 8.—It is now permitted to relate some of the stories, replete with thrills, of the bravery and high efficiency of the men on some of Britain's "Q" boats. Knowing the German's preference for an "easy mark," the "Q" boats were sent out as decoys. In appearance they were innocent merchantmen. In reality they were heavily armed and were manned by some of the most intrepid seamen of England's navy.

It was a summer evening, with a calm sea and a setting sun, and just sufficient breeze to fill the sails of a clumsy-looking old British sailing ship, apparently coasting.

The galley fire was going and the scene was one of many which were to be seen in British waters prior to the opening of the U-boat campaign.

Suddenly some three miles off a German submarine broke water, manned her forward gun and opened fire. Four shots fell dangerously near the sailing ship, which at once hoisted to and lowered a boat, the occupants of which commenced pulling as for dear life out of the radius of the enemy's fire.

The boat continued firing at the same time approaching at about 10 knots, until dead astern of the sailing ship.

Thought Her a Tramp. German officers examined her carefully through their glasses. She was apparently not worth wasting a torpedo upon. When about 100 yards away the submarine's helm was put over, and she came up on the ship's port beam at a distance of about 70 yards.

Evidently it was the intention of the German commander to sink her by gun fire; in fact, he had just given the order to fire at her water line, when he saw the white ensign run up.

The lumbering old craft got in the first shot in the resumed encounter. There was nothing to be done now but fight. The German's first impulse was to ram, and with his helm hard a port he went full speed ahead. But the sailing ship was not in his turning circle.

Then he came about and tried to maneuver to escape the British gunfire. The decoy ship—for such was the real business of the sailing vessel—had been perilously close with its first shot. Its second was more successful, and made a nasty mess of the base of the U-boat's conning tower, so that the submarine could not dive.

"Got" the Submarine. The British gunners' aim was excellent, as the third shot showed; for it completely carried away the foremast gun and killed the whole of the gun's crew. The submarine endeavored to show as small a target as possible, keeping stern on to the British ship, which, however, still continued to get in several hits with its larger guns and Lewis guns, causing a number of casualties to the enemy. The submarine, apparently badly mauled, proceeded for about 1,000 yards, when suddenly its engines stopped and it sank with an explosion, and amidst a cloud of black dense smoke.

When the smoke cleared away three German sailors were seen struggling in the water, and were picked up. They were badly wounded, but, thanks to first aid, were got ashore and taken to a naval hospital. The casualties to the British crew were slight.

Tricking the Pirates. Another decoy ship, to all intents and purposes, a British merchantman, armed with an anti-submarine gun, was making its way on a certain

course, when the lookout sighted a torpedo on the starboard beam. Apparently the torpedo had been discharged at a very close range.

Before the vessel had time to respond to its helm, the torpedo jumped out of the water 100 yards from the ship and struck near the engine room just on the water line. The explosion tore a large rent in the ship's side. Water rushed in, filling the boiler room, engine room and No. 5 hold. The starboard lifeboat was blown into the air, the wreckage landing on the wireless room.

The "abandon ship" signal was given and three boats were lowered. As the last boat pulled away a periscope appeared above the surface, scarcely 400 yards away. The submarine, still submerged, approached the ship until 50 yards off, and then again lowered its periscope. A few minutes later the periscope reappeared astern of the injured ship, and then the submarine broke surface, following one of the lifeboats which was pulling round the stern of the vessel.

Merely a "Blind." A German sailor emerged from the conning tower and shouted some directions in English to the boat's crew, which still continued to pull away from their ship.

By this time the submarine was well above the surface, and had shouted some directions in English to the boat's crew, which still continued to pull away from their ship.

By this time the submarine was well above the surface, and had reached a point before the ship's beam about 50 yards distant. Up went the white ensign, and the British revealed her true purpose. She had not been thoroughly abandoned.

Fire spouted from several guns dead on to the submarine. A four-inch shell hit the base of the conning tower and swept both periscopes away. Rapid fire was maintained and other hits recorded.

Badly holed, the submarine took a heavy list to port and several men appeared on deck as she steamed slowly across the bows of the decoy ship. Spurts of oil from her side showed the sorry plight she was in, and more of the crew came on deck and held up their hands.

The British captain, taking this for a sign of surrender, gave the order to cease fire. But no sooner had he done so than the submarine attempted to make off. The decoy ship was on to her in an instant, and a deadly fire was opened. A great explosion sealed the fate of the enemy; she heeled over on one side, poised for an instant and sank stern first.

A Victorious Victim. A lookout man on the decoy reported a submarine three miles away. For a while the enemy did nothing save to follow at a safe distance. He appeared to be satisfying himself that he had superior speed and gun power.

Reassured on these points, he opened fire and continued firing, drawing closer all the while. The fact that not a single round was returned puzzled him, and for a quarter of an hour he withheld his fire. Again he commenced his bombardment, now steering a parallel course to his "victim."

When he was in a suitable position the decoy ship opened fire upon him, the first round getting home just about the conning tower. It was evidently a mortal wound, for he appeared to lose way and stopped.

Seventeen rounds were fired from the British ship, and round after round found its mark until seven direct hits had been scored.

Not a shell came from the submarine among the American divisions sent to the Rhine.

After all, army divisions are made by their officers, as the men themselves are exactly alike in the raw. Therefore, it is needless to add that the officers of the 89th are an exceptionally fine lot.

We say this without knowing a single one of them personally.

The 89th was trained by General Wood at Camp Funston, in Kansas. It is made up of an all Missouri and all Kansas regiment, with a scattering of members from Nebraska, New Mexico, Colorado, the middle western and the Rocky mountain states.

You can tell a member of the 89th a block away by his shape and military bearing.

The Part of Lonely Soldier. When you come to figure it out several things in this war are training back to a lonely old soldier in Kansas who was not allowed to come over. We do not know what they claim to have on Leopold Wood, though a couple of people have tried to tell us, but this fact remains:

There are many thousands of efficient officers in our victorious army who are, figuratively speaking, children of his brain, without whom we might not now have an army of occupation on the Rhine.

There is, moreover, in that army of occupation every division of fighting men who are products of his hands.

It seems to us that one man could not do very much more.

Snow is Predicted for the First Part of Next Week. Washington, Feb. 8.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Monday, issued by the weather bureau today, are:

Upper Mississippi and lower Missouri valleys: Snow Monday or Monday night, followed by fair by Wednesday; snow or rain again probable towards the end of the week.

Nearly normal temperatures except somewhat below about the middle of the week, although nearly normal on leeward shores of the lakes.

George and Company Report. Two Big Sales During Week. Sales of two homes for \$9,750 and for \$8,000, are reported by George & Co.

The \$9,750 sale was of the J. W. Hickok alutuco bungalow at Fifty-first and Davenport streets to Dr. Wahl. The other was the William Ech house at 5120 Underwood avenue to Emma B. Hardy.

A. E. F. Casualty Figures Cut by Check of Records

Washington, Feb. 8.—Last week's casualty report showing more than 10,000 men of the expeditionary force missing in action has been corrected to make the total 7,783. General March said today General Pershing had reported the new total with the information that the figures were being reduced by from 100 to 200 names per day as a result of the checking of records in the central records office in France.

Billion for Wheat.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Chairman Lever today introduced the bill approved by the house agriculture committee appropriating \$1,000,000,000 to maintain the government's guarantee for the 1918 and 1919 wheat crops. It would confer powers for purchase and sale of wheat and flour, to control trading in wheat, and licensing millers, elevators and dealers, besides extending government control of imports and exports up to December 31, 1920.

Lane Asks Appropriation.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Congress was asked by Secretary Lane today for an appropriation of \$13,800,000 to complete construction of the Alaskan railroad within next year.

To Review Strike Situation.

San Francisco, Feb. 8.—The United States shipping board announced here today that L. C. Marshall, a member of the federal shipbuilding labor adjustment board, was in the city to review the strike situation in the San Francisco bay district.

Four thousand of the 7,500 striking mechanics in the shipyards and contract shops here returned to work today after their demands had been granted, it was announced.

Read the Bee Want Ads from day to day for best results.

"Tis a Fine Outfit!" All A. E. Soldiers Say About Gen. Wood's "Eighty-Ninth"

Nebraskans Fought from St. Mihiel to the Meuse, Bringing Glory and Honor to the Stars and Stripes—You Can Tell the "Lonely Soldier's" Men, Says Writer.

(This story by Damon Runyon is reprinted from the Chicago Herald and Examiner. In this territory Mr. Runyon's articles now appear exclusively in The Bee. It was Mr. Runyon who amused the readers of The Bee with the recent description of how "single-handed" one lonely soldier stopped the entire war for two solid hours. Some of his stories will appear in The Bee—Editor's Note.)

By DAMON RUNYON. With the American Army of Occupation, Coblenz, Jan. 14.—One of the favorite sports on the Rhine these days is the rating or, rather, the attempted rating, of different combat divisions, much after the fashion which sporting writers used to rate foot ball teams at the close of a season.

Which was the greatest division and which did the most notable work are questions which will probably be argued down through the ages, especially by members of the different fighting outfits—with but small chance they'll ever agree.

Every soldier proudly maintains that his organization is the finest, and no one will ever be able to change that opinion.

The very same debate was in the program twenty years ago, after the Spanish war, only then the argument was narrowed down to regiments.

89th One Of Best. We are our correspondent who doesn't happen to have a favorite division, probably for the reason that we were never attached to any particular outfit for any length of time, but were thrown more or less in connection with all the line divisions at different periods. Wherefore, what we say on the subject is more the reflection of a consensus of opinion than a personal expression.

And while unanimity on any one phase of the discussion is difficult to obtain, there is a proposition on which there seems to be pretty general agreement.

It is that one of the best of the national army or frat divisions, if not indeed the very best, is the 89th.

This doesn't necessarily mean that it was the best fighting division—there wasn't much difference in the whole American army in that

respect—it means that in everything that goes to make up a fine military unit it stands out. Many regular army men rate it among the best divisions of the whole army.

All Agree "It's Fine Outfit." You can start a terrific conversation any time by comparing the First and Second divisions. You can get up a warm debate any moment by suggesting that this or that division is the best.

But when the 89th is mentioned both regular army men and national guardsmen nod their heads and say, "It's a fine outfit." They don't admit that it is better than their own, of course, but they agree upon its merit without cavil.

Trained By Leonard Wood. And now see how the 89th is glist in the mills of the gods that are said to grind with such exceeding fineness. It was sent to the war by Gen. Leonard Wood, no less. He started for France at the head of the division, but was turned back. That was a bitter blow to him, but he ought to find some consolation in the record of his division.

It fought from St. Mihiel to the Meuse. It was credited with one of the most important operations of the last drive. Finally, it was cho-

MONDAY-TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY

OUR Clearance Sale goes on attended by record-breaking shopping crowds! This selling event has been heralded by so many, that never before has a sale such as this created such enthusiasm. Now comes three days of STILL GREATER BARGAINS—pricings which put this sale outside the realm of competition!

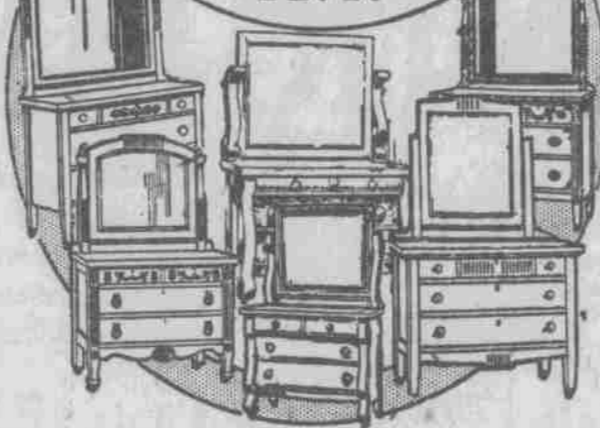
THREE DAYS OF SENSATIONAL SELLING AT HARTMAN'S COMPLETE CLEARANCE

WHILE everything is included in this great Complete Clearance, we have, however, arranged several lots for immediate disposal. These special lots have markings so attractive in their value-giving, they will be snapped up by posted buyers without delay. Even though you are not now in need of home furnishings, you are sure to see something here priced so attractively that you are bound to take advantage of this exceptional opportunity. It's so easy to be convinced of these wonderful money-saving values—simply compare with others! Come—investigate and compare!

184 Splendid Dressers

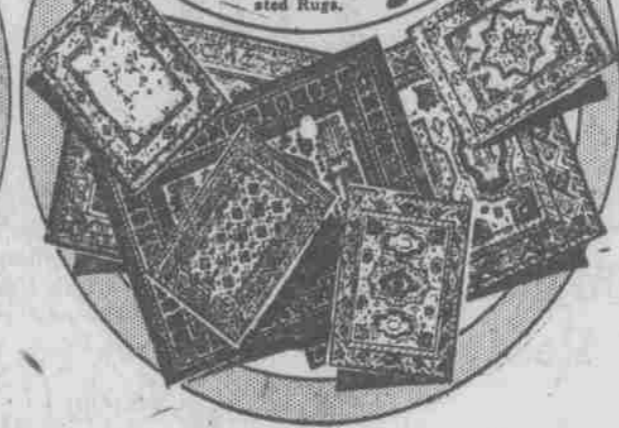
BUY your Dresser now and save money! We show 43 oak finish, large mirror, at 11.47; 23 at 13.94; 61 at 16.72; 12 at 19.87; 29 at 21.45, and hundreds of others

11.47



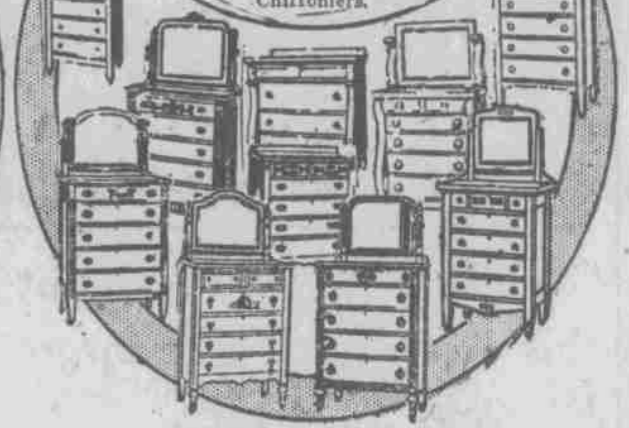
896

Brussels Rugs SIZE 9'x12' GREAT BARGAINS 18⁹⁷



98 Fine Chiffoniers

AT remarkable savings in price! 3 Chiffoniers are priced at only 7.99; 11 very beautiful styles at 8.49; all woods, every style, period effects, etc., ranging in price up to \$45.00 for the most luxurious Chiffoniers.



122 Complete Bed Room Sets

EXTRA special values can be found at our Complete Clearance Sale in fine Bedroom Sets. We show 36 at 48.75; 12 at 74.59; 17 at 78.98; and hundreds of others up to 452.80 for the finest Suites on the American market today. We urge early selection.



161 Handsome Library Tables

1074 CLEARANCE offers wonderful opportunities in the Library Tables. We show 23 at 10.74, fine turned finish with drawers; 19 at 12.46; bargain values in Davenport Tables, 12 at 12.46.



355

Massive Beds

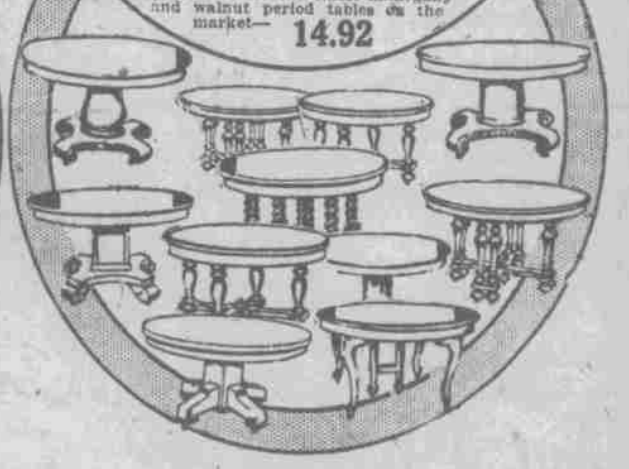
WE show 18 beds—various steel and iron enameled— at only \$28.12 at \$27.21; 12 at 30.38. Beautiful iron styles at 31.49; 8 at 32.72. Many Twin Bed Sets, Wood Beds, ranging in price to \$29.50 for the handsomest Bed ever offered.



214

Exquisite Extension Tables

If you need a dining room table don't miss this sale. We show 23 splendid 45-inch top tables, golden finish, at only 14.92; 12 at 16.48; and literally hundreds of others up to \$25.00 for the finest mahogany and walnut period tables on the market.



Compare Our Record-Breaking Sale Prices

Sacrifice Sale!
"Royal" Easy Chairs
EXTRAORDINARY values! Mahogany or oak finish, upholstered in guaranteed imitation leather. Special at only 21.45. Also 26 "Royal" Easy Chairs at 25.00; 21 at 29.45. A rare opportunity! Don't miss it. Investigate—compare!

21.45

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137 Kitchen Cabinets at Radical Reductions!
ALL SHARPLY UNDERPRICED for immediate clearance. We price 21 Special Kitchen Cabinets at only 16.95, 18 at 19.85, 11 at 24.70, and a few up to 34.95. 36 Kitchen Cabinet Base Tables at only 6.95. Investigate—compare!

16.95