Throughout World War, Atlantic Fleet Was Stationed at Yorktown, Va., One of Most Historic Spots in U.S. Says Daniels

Guantanamo bay was no place to

In Washington we reached the

The old adage about a parallelism

of thought between great intellects

may apply. Or perhaps you believe

in telepathy and prefer the theory

Whatever the explanation the fact

using any mechanical medium,

miral William S. Benson, in

the same rendezvous.

gunnery exercises."

have him guessing.

Navy department, to Admiral Mayo.

And the two dispatches proposed

the shifting of the fleet to a new

Here is the message sent by Ad-

"Unless instructions are received

to the contrary, propose to shift

fleet base to Gulf of Guacanayabo, after spotting practice, February 5, then proceed with schedule of all

son to Admiral Mayo, which was

dispatched from Washington a few

minutes later than that from the flag-

"Position of fleet known to every-

Where Is Guacanayabo?

and secret rendezvous-and named

same conclusion at the same time.

How the Atlantic fleet vanished on February 5, 1917—The story of the secret rendezvous—separatio communication between Admirals Mayo and Benson beats wireless—U-boat peril was real canace to American hattleships—Precautions taken to protect battleships from submarine attack—when the fleet might have smashed through German defenses "in spite of hell and Helgeland." By JOSEPHUS DANIELS.

Former Secretary of the Navy.

Copyright, 1921, by John F. Dille. Copyright by National Newspaper Service. Copyright in Great Britale. Canada and throughout Europe. All rights reserved, including translation into foreign languages, including the Scandasavian. Unauthorized reprinting for any purpose forbidden. Everybody in Santiago knew that the Atantic fleet under Admiral

The battleships could be seen easily enough from the hills, and the sound of their guns could be heard in the city. That is to say everybody knew the fleet was there on February 3, 1917. On February 5, few knew where it was. The Atlantic fleet had

From that time on, until the war ended, the Atlantic fleet and all tricate turnings and varying depths of the United State navy, moved with a mystery and secretiveness which was designed to keep the enemy guessing.

All the world knows now that the that the Atlantic fleet was there. British fleet had two main dendez-cous—one at Scapa Flow, in the No Place to Linger. vous-one at Scapa Flow, in the Orkney islands, and the other in the Firth of Forth, on the east coast of linger. Scotland. These our squadron on service in the North sea war zone shared with the British.

Few Know the Secret.

But the secret rendezvous of the Atlantic fleet are known to few per- that Mayo's mind or Benson's beat sons outside the navy: We never spoke of them by name at Washington, while the war lasted. "Base 1" and "Base 2" were the official and sufficient designations. Possibly the is that Admiral Mayo sent a dis-Germans learned where they were; if so, the knowledge did them little afternoon of February 4, 1917, which good. These picked rendezvous were was crossed by a dispatch from Adchosen because they combined the two features of abundant space and depth for the dreadnaught and lesser ships, and an adaptability for defensive purposes which made them practically impregnable to U-boats.

Nor was it from any exaggerated sense of alarm that these precautions miral Mayo from the flagship Pennwere taken as soon as diplomatic re- sylvania at Guantanamo: lations were severed. Germany's declaration of U-boat warfare had been aimed at us as well as at other nations, and she might, as she had before, strike without warning.

In the fallo f 1916 the U-53 had crossed the Atlantic and sunk a number of British vessels just off our coast. We had an idea this was done as a sort of demonstration of its possibility in which Germany follows: thought we might be interested.

Raiders Busy Along Coast.

At no great distance from Cuba German raiders were sinking allied vessels in the Atlantic. Only two at discretion. Inform department weeks before we sent Bernstorff confidentially. home the Hudson Maru, a Japanese steamer, had put into Pernambuco, Brazil, in possession of a German prize crew, and carrying 273 survivors of some half dozen ships which had been sunk.

know the identify of this daring and land Cape Cruz you will find a size- Hampton Roads was a most consuccessful raider, we learned later that it was no less a ship than the famous Moewe, which had captured prizes on that voyage, sinking but the Hudson Maru and the Yarrowdale. On the latter they carried 496 prisoners, including about 60 American sailors, back to Ger-

Rumors were rife of U-boat bases and U-boat activities in West Indian waters. It was no time for taking the first weeks of the war the British cruisers Cressy, Aboukir and Hogue had been sunk in the North

I have told elsewhere in these articles how the fleet went on a war basis the day Bernstorff was dis-

Defense Plan in Operation.

president was delivering his message to congress and the German ambassador was receiving his passports, Admiral Mayo was putting into effect the plan for defense of the fleet in Guantanamo bay.

At 3:45 that afternoon Admiral Mayo received my order to mobilize naval communications, in order to place all communications on a war

At 10:15 that night he received the "alnay availability" order, and the various force commanders began work at once on their reports, showing the condition of every vessel and its readiness for war. These reports were submitted to Admiral Mayo the next day, and transmitted immediately to the Navy depart-

Naturally enough, knowing what had happened in Washington, and receiving the mobilization and availability orders Admiral Mayo's mind turned to what should be the next

Guantanamo bay was exposed and easily accessible. Everybody knew

For Your Blood



as your blood. It is like that you are as young as Vigor and health come with Without lood one

You are

heart and p o o r nerves. It

ervousness or in that weak, tired

If your blood is thin and watery, face pale or pimply, if you are generally weak, tired and listless, a vegetable tonic should be taken. One that will do the house-cleaning, an old-fashioned herbal remedy that was used by everybody 50 years ago is still safe and sane because it contains no alcohol or narcotic. It is made up of Blood root, Oregon Grape root, Queen's root, Stone root, Cherry Bark, without alcohol,—and made into both liquid and tablets. This blood tonic was first put out by Dr. Pierce in ready-to-use form as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. Druggists keep this in tablet form, as well as liquid. Send for for a large trial package to Dr. Pierce's Invalids' Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y. Write for free book on blood disorders, medical con-

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and marked out by buoys. We had it. used it for years for special maneuvers. We knew how to get out again

Henry T. Moyo, was engaged in target practice and maneuvers in traordinary dangers. shoals. When the main channel was those early weeks of the war. closed against intruders, only a navigator, thoroughly familiar with the inchances were heavily against any U-boat coming through while submerged—and a U-boat that failed to submerge we could take care of. Aero for the largest battleships and spaboat coming through while sub-

> sance of the gulf and adjacent waters at anchor. With defenses at the enfrom Cape Cruz to Lavissa bank. Safe as Jewels in a Vault.

When Admiral Mayo had placed his ships in this land-locked harbor, the wireless, and sent its suggestion to the mind of the other without had shut the door and turned the key. they were as safe as my lady's jewels in a safety deposit vault. There the fleet continued its work, patch to Washington at 3:59 on the

going out to sea for battle practice and long-range gunnery in the daytime, and returning at night to conduct night firing with secondary batteries and other exercises. There was even room in the gulf to carry on torpedo firing and defense at 10,000 yeards' distance. Guacanayabo was safe enough, but

in case of hositilities we wanted our fleet nearer home, so a few days before war we concealed it in a home base even more inaccessible to the Before this final base was deter-mined for the Atlantic fleet, however,

it was moved from Guacanayabo to unnery exercises."

The message from Admiral Bennorth was given March 21, 1917.

Ready for Submarines.

The possibility of submarine attack on this voyage was clearly ship, but before its arrival, reads as recognized, and instructions were given that for the greater safety of body. If considered advisable on the fleet the larger battleships and account of submarines, shift base to destroyers should proceed at maxi-Gulf of Guacanayabo or elsewhere mum speed via Cacos channel, while the train, mine force and old battleships-all slower vessels-should go in company via the Crooked island Ask the average man where or passage.

The dreadnaughts and destroyers what Guacanayabo is and you will reached Hampton Roads at 9:30 Take a large scale map of Cuba c'clock on the morning of March 27, and look at the southern coast of the The slower ships arrived three days island. Between Santa Cruz del Sur later.

able body of water, extending in a venient and desirable base in many sort of semicircle for some 70 miles. ways, but it was too well known and It is about 15 miles across at its too much exposed. We brought Adwidest part. This is the Gulf of miral Mayo to Washington, and the whole matter was discussed. Charts Long before it had been thorough- were examined and a new base sesurveyed by our own hydrographic lected, to which the admiral was office, and the survey had ascertained given orders to shift the fleet. On the very day on which Presithat there was ample depth of water on the very day on which Presi-for the biggest ships. The main dent Wilson delivered his war mes-

sage to congress the fleet sailed from fleet went into the York river either officers considered the best possible men of the navies that produce Nel- through and destroy the German Hampton Roads for its new rendez- to rest or to hide. Far from it. Dur- course under the circumstances. Un- sons and Farraguts, John Paul Jones | fleet in spite of hell and Helgoland. ing the entire war there were few questionably the existence of these and Deweys. I neither blame the This was "base 2." Throughout busier places in the United States two great fleets, and the French and British admiralty, nor excuse our Daniels will be printed tomorrow.) the war it was never called anything else. In conversation and dispatches than this base. Every ship was carrying on intensive training day it remained thus mysteriously designated. The newspapers were regimeers, firemen, deck officers and cuested if they should by chance discovery where the fleet was sequested. cover where the fleet was sequestered to keep it as profound a secret as the ing to man transports, destroyers, Navy department had tried to make patrol craft and all the many vessels put into Europetn and transatlantic

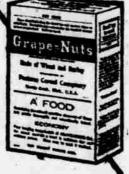
service. Necessarily persons residing in the In addition to new men in their when we wanted to; but the great neighborhood of the base became own crews, the battleships trained consideration was that once in we could close the door, and nobody else could get in without running ex-

tongues. It was months before the stokers wafted to get into ac-Across the mouth of the gulf there was any general knowledge of tion. Not a man in the navy but are many small islands and perilous where the fleet spent its days during knew in his heart it would be all over with the Germans if only they "Base 2" was one of the most hiswould give the Atlantic fleet a toric spots in America-Yorktown, chance.

The Germans, probably, knew it too, for the chance was never given. venture an attempt to enter. The place where Cornwallis surrendered This was the naty's undying regret. Admiral Beatty expressed the feeling when, in his farewell address to Adplanes made a complete reconnais- cious enough for a whole fleet to ride he said: "I know quite well that you, as well as all of your British twice every day, while picket boats trance to Chesapeake bay and nets comrades, were bitterly disappointed guarded all channels and destroyers and patrols across York river, no at not being able to give effect to patrolled the waters outside the gulf submarine could ever hope to pene- the efficiency that you have so well maintained.

It should not be supposed that the Both countries pursued what naval

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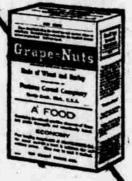
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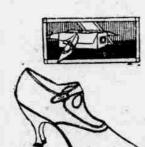
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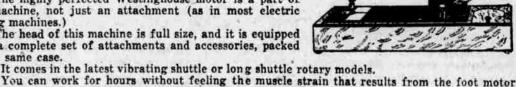
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