

N. O. T. S. Branch of American Navy Was Prosaic Part of Service, But It Was Full Of Mystery and Romance, Says Daniels

By JOSEPH DANIELS
Former Secretary of the Navy—1913 to 1918.

Mystery has always attached itself to the sea, and romance to the lives of those who go down to the sea in ships.

This article is to deal with what was, in a way, a prosaic branch of the service, but it will tell of both mystery and romance.

The initials "N. O. T. S." may not be as familiar to the landsman reader as some others which were in frequent use during the war, but every sailor knew them and knew them well—not only the sailors of our own country, but of all other countries having ships on the Atlantic in 1918.

"N. O. T. S." stood for the largest cargo fleet on earth operating under a single management—the naval overseas transportation service.

On January 1, 1918, it did not have a past existence; on January 9 it was formally organized and named; by July it comprised 198 vessels, and when the armistice came in November its fleet consisted of 490 assigned ships, of which 378 were in actual operation, and the rest in course of construction or preparing to go into commission. Its total maximum tonnage was 3,800,000 deadweight.

35,000 Men in Service.

This was a development of the navy's work which got less attention than its magnitude and importance merited. It was one of the biggest things we did, and among the chief reasons why we had to raise and train such an enormous personnel. There were some 5,000 officers and 30,000 men in this service.

Had the war continued through 1919, according to our estimates we would have required at least 20,000 officers and 200,000 men for this branch of the service alone. The shipping board schedule for 1918-19 contemplated the delivery of 1,924 vessels, the large majority of which would have been put into war service and manned by the navy.

"N. O. T. S." was "the ferry to France," carrying millions of tons of munitions, guns, food, fuel, supplies, materials to our army and naval forces abroad. Five tons of supplies a year were required for each soldier.

But I am not going to burden you with statistics. The story of what this prosaic ferry service meant to the men engaged in it may be best told by giving you the "log" of one ship—a typical ship and a typical experience in the N. O. T. S.

The George G. Henry—prosaic, matter-of-fact name—had made seven round trips to France, averaging 67 days to the trip, which allows for loading and unloading—a fine record for a cargo steamer.

Tackles a U-Boat. It was on its eighth trip and far out to sea, alone, footing its way under full speed, when it sighted a U-boat about 5,000 yards distant. This was at 6:50 in the morning of September 29, 1918.

"Full left wheel" was ordered. "General quarters" was rung in. The forward gun went into action and the after gun followed quickly. They the submarine opened fire. Some shots fell short, others went over the Henry. The latter's shells were dropping in pretty lively fashion around the "sub," and presently it withdrew beyond range, but kept in pursuit.

For two hours it followed, firing an occasional shot, but giving small chance to the Henry. Then it scored a hit—a real hit. A six-inch shell struck the Henry, piercing the after deck. It plunged diagonally downward, breaking the exhaust pipe of the steering gear and

Council Postpones Action on Electric Rates Referendum. The city council deferred action from yesterday afternoon to next Monday morning on the legality of a referendum petition filed last week against the recent electric light and power rate ordinance.

H. G. Moorhead, election commissioner, reported to the city clerk that he had checked the names against his resignation lists and discovered more than 500 names of persons not registered.

City Commissioner W. G. Ure announced yesterday that in several places of the petition more than one signature appears to be in the same writing and he has referred this feature of the case to an expert in chirography.

Mr. Ure asserted that he does not believe the petition is legally sufficient.

Brief City News. Rabbi to Speak—"Jewish Ethics" will be Rabbi Cohn's subject at Temple Israel at 8 tonight.

Beaten by Thugs—Edward Pritchard, 1732 South Twenty-seventh street, in a serious condition at St. Joseph hospital as a result of a severe beating he suffered early yesterday morning when he was robbed of \$200 at Eighteenth and Chicago streets.

War on Sportive Autoists—Motorcycle officers have been ordered to arrest those sportive automobile drivers who drive with one hand on the wheel and the other about "sweetie's" neck. Inspector of Police Andy Pattullo was in conference with Sergeant George Emery on the subject yesterday.

Will Teach Swimming—Omaha girls between the ages of 14 and 18 will be allowed to use the swimming pool at the Nicholas Sem hospital this summer. Dr. A. P. Condon announced yesterday. Pete Wendell, swimming instructor at the Omaha Athletic club, and Helen Condon, state woman's champion, will instruct the novices.

Gets Verdict for \$3,750—A verdict for \$3,750 was awarded Catherine Aye, young daughter of Herman Aye, an attorney, yesterday in district court for injuries sustained when a truck owned by Abraham R. Marsh crashed into an automobile in which she and her mother were riding at Twenty-ninth and Dodge streets last September. She sued for \$15,000.

Butler Must Pay—Under an order signed by District Judge Redick yesterday, Dan Butler, organizer of the Tenants' league, must pay into district court \$70 by May 1 and \$70 by June 1, or be put out of his apartment in Drake court. The order was the culmination of a long-drawn-out fight brought by the Drake Realty company against Butler and members of the Tenants' league.

Bee Want Ads Our Best Boosters.

In some sudden West Indian hurricane; that her cargo shifted, listing the vessel, which turned turtle and went down. This is the only way in which the absence of wreckage can be accounted for. Our collies of this type have high steel beams like cranes, with chains of buckets to load and unload coal. If she went down bottom-side up, these huge steel fingers might have pinned down everything on deck, allowing nothing to float to the surface. That is what seems most probable. But, like everything else connected with the case, it is all conjecture.

"Fate unknown" is the inscription beneath the name of the Cyclops on the navy list. The waves that sweep over where she lies conceal the secret. Her fate will probably remain a mystery until that last day when the waters are rolled back and the sea gives up its dead.

(Another article by former Secretary Daniels will be printed tomorrow.)

usual, and among officers, crew and passengers there seemed to be no apprehension or forebodings of trouble or disaster. After coaling she sailed away. Many persons saw her sail; other vessels hailed her as she passed out to sea.

Last Seen of the Cyclops. After that no one ever saw her again, or heard one word or ever found any trace of her. Almost invariably when a vessel is sunk, bodies of the drowned are found and a mass of floating wreckage. But never a soul of all those on the big 19,000-ton ship, never a stick of wreckage or one thing from the lost ship was ever discovered.

Two hundred and ninety-three perished when the Cyclops went down. In addition to its officers and crew it was bringing north some 51 enlisted men who had been serving on United States vessels in South American waters, as well as a few civilians returning from Brazil, among them Maurice Gottschalk, United States consul at Rio de Janeiro.

What happened to it? There were many theories, most of them wild and untenable; none that seemed to fit the case thoroughly. Many people jumped to the conclusion that it was sunk by a submarine, but so far as known, there was no submarine anywhere near that region. Others, seizing upon the fact that its commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander G. W. Worley, was a native of Germany and that a number of the crew had German names, thought the captain and crew had turned traitors and taken the ship to Germany. Lieutenant Commander Worley had come to America as a boy; he had been employed in the naval auxiliary service for nearly 29 years, with no evidence of disloyalty. But this belief among some outside the navy that the ship had been taken to Germany persisted until the armistice, when there was undeniable proof that no such vessel had been captured, turned over or sighted, and the Germans knew no more about its fate than we did.

Think Ship Turned Turtle. The only theory that seems tenable is that the Cyclops was caught

PRICES CUT

Prices of Slip Covers Much Lower

You'll need slip covers to protect your furniture from the dust and dirt this summer. We offer special this week a set of damask or cretonne slip covers—to cover 3 pieces—at \$18.50 up

Phone DOUGLAS 9097—A man will call with samples and quote you complete prices.

NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW THAT OLD FURNITURE

A special sale, reupholstered in leather, tapestry, or velvet, new springs, frames polished, for \$27.50 up

American Upholstering Co.

Opposite Castle Hotel, 817 South 16th Street. Special Prices on Hotels and Churches. PHONE VS—WE CALL FOR AND DELIVER FREE.

KIDDIES!

Here's Great News for You

SATURDAY MORNING

in the new Burgess-Nash Auditorium, located on the fifth floor of the new building, there will be a big

Free Picture Show for You

It will start at 10 o'clock and every little boy and girl is invited to attend.

What Is the Name of the Picture?

We'll tell you tomorrow night—but see if you can guess. It is someone who is popular all over the entire country. He is small and has lots of freckles. Now do you know? But if you can't guess, you'll know tomorrow night and Saturday you can see the picture for yourself—free.

BURGESS-NASH COMPANY.

"EVERYBODY'S STORE"

Phoenix hosiery

INvariably, people think of PRAYS when in need of hosiery and it's only natural, for Pray's assortment of Phoenix Hosiery is ALWAYS Complete.

Men's 40c to \$1.10
Women's 65c to \$3.50
Children's 65c to \$1.00

Two Stores—
508 So. 16th St.
1908 Farnam St.

The Home of PHOENIX HOSIERY, for Men, Women and Children

BURGESS-NASH COMPANY.

"EVERYBODY'S STORE"

Prices Are Down

Almost everything is back to the lower prices and there is no longer any need of doing without things. From day to day we are telling you of the new low prices. Watch our advertisements.

Below is the list of Junior Apparel Prices for 1920, 1921.

COATS	
Polo Cloth and Tweed 1920 \$25.00 1921 \$17.75	Wool Velours, Tricotine and Novelty Coatings 1921 \$20.75
Novelty Coatings 1921 \$20.75	DRESSES
Gingham and Chambray 1920 \$3.95 to \$5.00 1921 \$1.95 to \$2.50	Swiss, Chambray, Gingham and Devonshire 1921 \$7.50 to \$12.50
1920 \$10.50 to \$13.75 1921 \$7.50 to \$12.50	1920 \$11.50 1921 \$9.50
1920 \$16.50 to \$45.00 1921 \$13.50 to \$39.75	MIDDY BLOUSES
Jean Cloth, Galatea and Kitty Cloth 1920 \$2.50 to \$5.95 1921 \$1.95 to \$3.95	

25 Demonstrating and Floor Sample "Free" Sewing Machines

At Greatly Reduced Prices

These machines have been used in demonstrating and ones we send on trial—they have been handled quite a great deal and naturally have been scratched here and there—but the head is guaranteed the same as new—for a lifetime!

A Few of the Regular Priced Machines The "Free" Makes a Perfect Stitch

5 cabinet machines in waxed or golden oak, \$99.50.
5 cabinet machines in mahogany or walnut, \$108.00.
3, 6-drawer, automatic drop head, fumed or golden oak, \$95.00.
2, rotary bobbin, automatic drop head machines, \$70.00.

Convenient terms of payments, \$1.00 a week, if desired.
Second Floor

25% Discount

The all-important feature about a sewing machine is whether or not it makes a perfect stitch, and here are the reasons why this is true: The upper and lower tensions are absolutely uniform, making each stitch lock exactly in the center of the goods.

Our New Shoe Repair Shop

In the Downstairs Store Where Old Shoes Are Made to Look Like New

To further our service to our patrons we have installed a large and complete repair shop. Modern machinery has been installed and all work will be directed by intelligent men, who have had years of experience and who are desirous of giving you the best service possible.

Telephone Douglas 2100 and our auto will call for and return your shoes to you.

A Few of the Many May Specials Friday in the Downstairs Store

Burnasco Corsets

\$1.50 to \$5.00

In our new line of Burnasco corsets you can find any height bust which is the most comfortable for you. We recommend low bust model, but if a medium or high bust is desired our new department, located in our downstairs store, will have it. Sizes 22 to 30.

You Will Appreciate the Quality and Style of These

Suits at \$19.50

Every popular style is included in this special group of serge, tricotine, poplin suits. The colors are navy, and rookie. You may choose from strictly tailored models or the ripple effects. Sizes 16 to 42.

Women's Lisle Hose 50c pair

Women's lisle stockings, made double soles, toes and heels. Black, white, navy and brown. All sizes, at 50c pair.

Women's Vests 35c—3 for \$1.00

Women's vests in regulation top are splendid values at 35c.

Curtain Scrim 12 1/2c yard

Beautiful curtain scrim with handsome colored borders and with neat lace edges. 12 1/2c yard. Limit of 10 yards to a customer.

Children's Sateen Bloomers, 79c, 85c, 95c

One thinks of bloomers as something children must have just the same as shoes and stockings. These are nice quality sateen. Sizes 2 to 12.

Summer Brassieres 35c

These brassieres are of lightweight material, easily laundered and especially good for summer wear. Sizes 32 to 40.

Children's Muslin Pants 35c, 39c, 49c

After seeing the quality and make, you will want several pairs. They are of good quality muslin, trimmed in lace.

Slipover Sweaters at \$1.95

For All Summer Wear

Women's slip over sweaters in the sport shades, such as flame, green, gray, also tan and blues, are offered at a price which scarcely pays for the yarn in them. Sizes 36 to 44.

Plain Stripe and Plaid Skirts, \$5.95

200 skirts made of good quality serge and velour in plain striped and plaid patterns in pleated and plain effects are offered at this price for Friday's selling. Pockets and belts add to their attractiveness. Sizes 25 to 39.

Two Shoe Specials

Children's and Misses Slippers, \$2.95

This sale includes an exceptional purchase of a lot of children's and misses' oxfords and Mary Jane pumps in gun metal, patent and kid leathers, turn and welt soles. The colors are black, brown. All are exceptional values.

All sizes, 8 to 11 in children's—11 1/2 to 2 misses' and 2 1/2 to 6 in growing girls' sizes.

White Cloth Keds, \$1.00

One lot white cloth keds, in lace oxfords, one strap Mary Jane pumps and plain pumps. Friday, special, \$1.00 pr.

Pillow Cases 65c each

Embroidered pillow cases, 65c each. A fine round thread quality with hemstitched edge. Size 45x36 inches.

Specials for Friday and Saturday

Men's Work Shirts, 79c

Extra good quality blue chambray work shirts, double stitched seams, cut full and roomy, single and double-breasted pockets, plain or coat style. Sizes 14 1/2 to 16 1/2.

Men's and Youth's Trousers \$2.95 pair

Neat striped waisted, plain or cuff bottoms. Sizes 30 to 42 waist measure.

Beau Brummel Shirts, \$1.49 each

Made of good quality madras and percale, coat style, double cuffs, pretty patterns, all sizes.

Koveralls for Boys and Girls for Summer Wear \$1.00 and \$1.25 the suit.

Men's Neckties, 29c each

150 dozen men's four-in-hand neckties, excellent quality, all the newest patterns for men and young men. Large open end four-in-hand ties at about 1/3 their real value.

Table Cloth \$1.39 each

Bleached damask table cloths; these are a heavy weight quality, with hemstitched edge and handsome designs. Size 68x72 inches.

Cotton Suiting 29c yard

White cotton suiting; a fine weave and quality, much used for skirts, suits and children's garments, 29c yard.

Bleached Sheets \$1.39 each

Bleached sheets, size 72x99 inches, made of a heavyweight round thread sheeting that will give good service; neat three-inch hem.

Dress Voiles 28c yard

Beautiful dress voiles, 36 and 40 inches wide. These are of excellent quality and beautiful designs in light or dark colorings. Limit of 6 yards to a customer.

Lingerie Cloth 26c yard

36-inch lingerie cloth; a very fine quality, much used for hand-embroidered undergarments; unusual value for 26c yard.

Bed Sheets \$1.85 each

Scalloped edge bed sheets, a fine round thread quality with scalloped edge and one row of embroidery. These are suitable for full size beds.

Bed Spreads \$2.95

Hemmed bed spreads with neat blue colored stripes. These are a summer weight spread and of excellent quality for full size beds.

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Rag Rug Specials for Friday

Size 24x36 Hit and Miss Effects, 75c each.	Size 30x60 Hit and Miss Effects, \$1.39 each.
Size 36x72 Hit and Miss Effects, \$1.98 each.	Size 27x54 Plain pink, blue and green, \$1.75 each.
Size 30x60 Plain pink, blue and green, \$2.25 each.	Size 36x72 Plain pink, blue and green, \$3.00 each.

Bath Mats \$1.19 each

Bath mats in two colors only. This is a heavyweight Terry cloth quality. Very special at \$1.19 each. Limit of two to a customer.