



VALPARAISO—THE CITY ON A MOUNTAINSIDE

Early one blustering winter's night, an American sailor from the Asiatic Fleet Flagship stood at the bar in the Astor Hotel in Shanghai, sipping hot rum punch and thanking his lucky stars for the warmth and coziness of the famous taproom. Outside shivering rickshaw coolies tried to wrap their rags close about their scrawny bodies and huddled in doorways to escape the icy fingers of wintry winds. The Chinese bartender's chattering Pidgin English had begun to bore the sailor and he wished for other company.

In answer to his wish the door burst
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HOUSTON'S DAMAGE CONTROL PRACTICE CANCELLED

The Damage Control Practice for this year has been cancelled. Instead, on the date scheduled for this practice, 25 June, we will have our Annual Military Inspection. In view of the fact that the practice has been called off, much more attention will be paid to the appearance of the crew and ship. Every man will be expected to have practically a complete new uniform by this date. In drawing small stores, between now and then, every one should bear this in mind.

It is expected that for the rest of our voyage to Long Beach, we will encounter very good weather. If this is the case, there is no reason why the ship shouldn't be in a perfect state of cleanliness. All hands will work to bring about this condition.

A GOOD SHIPMATE PASSES ON

Lester Adcock, CWT., Dies
As Result of Accidental Fall.

We lost a mighty good friend and a fine shipmate when injuries suffered in an accidental fall caused the death of Lester "Pop" Adcock, Chief Watertender.

We didn't know his name was Lester, for he was "Pop" to all hands, and everyone was "Bud" to him. Though he had been with us a comparatively short time, he had made many friends in his quiet, unassuming way. We shall miss his familiar figure and his inseparable pipe about the decks, for though it is true he wasn't the talkative kind, we all knew and liked him.

We feel sure his record in the Book of Life was just as good as his Naval record, so it is with confidence we wish him Godspeed on the Other Side.

Realizing the great sorrow the premature death of a good husband and father brought his family, it is with deepest sincerity that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife and children in their bereavement.

The HOUSTON Ship's Company.

HOUSTON MEN DINNER GUESTS

The Escuela de Comunicaciones de Chilean Marina (School of Communications of the Chilean Navy) gave an elaborate dinner for a party of fifty men from the Communication Department of each Cruiser present

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HOUSTON TO ARRIVE IN LONG BEACH 16 JUNE

The date of arrival in Long Beach has been stepped up from 17 June to 16 June. According to present plans, we will arrive in Long Beach some time during the forenoon of Tuesday, 16 June. The reason for this change is due to the fact that we will provision ship on the 18th.

NAVY MAKES FAVORABLE IMPRESSION IN CHILE

The fact that the Officers and Men of our Navy made a favorable impression upon our Chilean hosts is shown by the following dispatch received from the Acting Commander in Chief of the Chilean Fleet, Admiral Alvarez, "To Admiral Hart, U.S.S. CHICAGO. Please do us the favor of accepting the very best wishes of the Chilean Navy for a happy return of the Fleet under your command. Request that you interpret the above to all the personnel under your command to the effect that they have completely won the affections of all the personnel of the entire Chilean Navy."

Another dispatch from Almirante Latorre, (Commanding Officer, Latorre) expressing much the same sentiment is as follows: "The Admiral, Commanding Officers and men of the Chilean Fleet wish Admirals Hart and Brinser and the Officers and Men under their command a happy voyage and success. It has been a pleasure to receive their visit to Chile".

Admiral Hart goes further to say, "Our departure from Valparaiso marks the completion of an important mission which the Commander of

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—: THE BLUE BONNET —:

A weekly publication, published by the ship's company of the U. S. S. HOUSTON, Captain G. E. Baker, U. S. N., Commanding and Commander P. K. Robottom, U. S. N. Executive Officer.

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Printer:— G. W. Baker, Sea1c.

JUNE 6, 1936

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"INTROSPECTION"

Have you ever considered

How fortunate we

On a cruise to strange places

Where we must see

Grownups and children

In life's gruesome fight

Who must labor and struggle

From daybreak till night

With hunger and privation,

Sorrow and strife

Where death is escape

From a hell on earthly life.

They find pleasures and pastimes

Just fanciful dreams

And born to be slaves

Till the end, so it seems.

Yet we grumble and groan,

Get so easily depressed

Never think of the heritage

With which we've been blest

When skies seem so cloudy

Don't grumble and fuss

Buck up, wear a smile,

And thank God we're US.

—Hugh Stone

HOUSTON MEN DINNER GUESTS

(Continued From Page One)

in Valparaiso on Sunday, 31 May 1936. The six course dinner was served in excellent Continental fashion, wine and orchestra included.

To say that this dinner was elaborate does not fully do justice to our hosts, for everything that could possibly be done to make us enjoy ourselves was well attended to. The officers of the school placed their mess and servants at our disposal. Many men were amazed to find that the silver and dishes that they were using were marked Colonel's Mess, etc.

After the dinner, which lasted an hour and a half, we were taken on a short tour of inspection around the buildings and grounds. Those who were fortunate enough to have attended this dinner will not soon forget the courtesy, respect and attention they received. Needless to say, everyone enjoyed the affair.

"VALPARAISO SIDELIGHTS"

Just at teatime in Valparaiso's swanky Cafe Riquet, four tired and hungry HOUSTON sailors returning from a sightseeing trip, took the one remaining table—all others being filled by the elite of Valparaiso: Chileans, English and Americans. Imagine their red-faced embarrassment when an obsequious but loud-voiced Garzon asked, "and what do the Senors wish, tea or HAM AND EGGS?" ! ! ! ! !

At the Jocky Club Restaurant, a large group of young Chilean males were having a stag dinner. Over the coffee and liqueurs they talked, presumably of "ships and shoes, and sealing wax. . . ." The animated conversation was interrupted by an occasional song—the staccato, rollicking kind the Spanish people sing. To top things off, and we imagined in honor of the visiting Americanos, they lustily chorused the "Man on the Flying Trapeze" and "The Music Goes Down. . ." in strongly accented English.

A huge placard swung from the roof over the door of the Cizano Bar. "THE BEST KNOWN U.S. CURRENCY ACCEPTED HERE". Inside, the bar mirror was decorated with, "Splendid U. S. Marines welcome" and ". . . only the old-fashioned English spoken". ? ? ? ?

Plastered over the front of another drinking place were eight large signs announcing to the world that here was the AMERICAN BAR for Americans. "The Crew of the U. S. Navy, He is Welcome" and upon investigation I saw not a single man from the Cruisers among the crowd of Chileans who filled the place. Wasted effort?

A deplorable note—Underfed little boys, with large dark eyes and skinny bodies, in ages from six to ten, acting as agents at large for the oldest profession on earth!

Adios amigos de Chile—We enjoyed our stay in your hospitable and fascinating city. May we return mañana. —Adam Chatterbox

Library Hours:— At Sea 1630 to 1700, In Port 1230 to 1300.

The folks at home will enjoy reading the BLUE BONNET. Mail it!

EXHAUST-PIPE



Now that our visit to Valparaiso is over, all hands are looking forward to the concentration period at San Diego on our return to California.

Dodson seems to have accumulated a Spanish accent since the trip to Valparaiso.

As we near Long Beach, Cendy Mellon has become embued with that paternal complex again!

Our esteemed "Charlie" Noble made a rather dashing figure on crutches while ashore in Valparaiso.

Rosie apparently is showing quite a bit of interest in Chilean Souvenirs!

Martin claims to have been addressed as a Senorita during a shopping trip. Wonder if it was because of those eyebrows?

Ronnie is boasting of his conquests in South America.

Wonder why Hollingsworth gets so pugnacious after a few drinks?

Gibson seems all set for a break in regards to a relief as soon as we get back. He has his eye on Noble's pet toe.

SHIP'S SERVICE STORE NOTES

The Rolls Razors in the Ship's Service Store will not be available after arrival in Long Beach. This is foreign made merchandise and unless duty is paid on them it is impossible to sell them in the States. All men desiring one at the duty-free price of \$5.00 should get them immediately as the supply is limited.

Note:— All previous instructions concerning Neptune certificates should be disregarded. Men desiring one purchase same at S. S. Store and turn it in to the Executive Officer's for stenciling of name and the application of the Ship's seal.

First Lawyer: "You're a lowdown cheat!"

Second Lawyer: "Your're an unmitigated liar!"

Judge (rapping): "Now that the attorneys have identified each other we shall proceed with the case."



**NOSEY
NEWS
by
EV' BODY**

Now that Valparaiso is but a memory and the rumor mongers have taken another sound trouncing in being crossed up once more, the good ship HOUSTON has more rumors flying around than ever before. If you are inclined to believe these lads, we are due to go places and do things in a big way during the next six months. It must be admitted quite a few members of the crew would enjoy these contemplated cruises but it seems our GG's will be worrying in vain.

There is no doubt the brand of war paint used by the Chilean Maids is of the lasting variety. Many of our Houstonites found it rather difficult to erase all traces.

The Spanish-speaking lads found Chile very much to their liking from all reports. Among these to prosper due to their ability we find McCormick, "Spider" Hennessy, Hubenak, and the Garcia brothers. It seems some of the boys found difficulty in using their border spanish though.

We are wondering just how many quarts of Champagne were sold during our visit?

It seems Chimelwski has talent hithero unknown. He is known to have had the gals chasing him all over Valparaiso.

If the buying of ox furs (?) is any sign of prosperity, there is no doubt the HOUSTON has her share.

Mitchell of the "C" should remember Valparaiso for some time to come. His undignified return was so unlike the usual behavior displayed.

Who said "Ham & Eggs" could be had at most any restaurant? ? ? ?

To hear Zainfield tell of his conquests leads one to believe the lad has been holding out on us. It must be simply divine to possess an overabundance of "IT".

We now learn after all these years that McKee has another qualification. That of knowing just what makes the best embalming fluid? ? ? ? ?

"Angle-Head" Kihartz is in the news again we hear. It seems he is planning on doing some deep concentrating upon our arrival in Long Beach.

Veach of the "R" is still raving over that last liberty he made. It seems a shame the lad could not keep those remembrances forever.

Wonder whether that Wednesday morning press cover could have been intended to depict a Marine and a Sailor telling the Chilean maids all about the romance of the sea? ? ? ? Some insist the Sailor was trying to protect both maids from a Gorilla. ?

Cooley of the "N" wins this week's award for giving the most amusing demonstration of being nimble on the feet. That one and a half he gave on the foc'sle was rather graceful at that.

It has been rumored about the decks the new QM strikers are taking 10 minute lessons in how and when to put out the dope (bum). They shall have to hurry for our best dispenser shall leave us upon arrival in Long Beach.

—Sayonara.

MOVIES

The following Movies are on board:

"Brides Are Like That"—Anita Louise and Ross Alexander.

"Moonlight Murder"—Chester Morris and Madge Evans.

"P's and Q's"—a short.

"Captain January"—Shirley Temple and Guy Kibbee.

"The Ghost Goes West"—Jean Parker and Robert Donat.

"Anything Goes"—staring Ethel Merman and Bing Crosby.

It is possible that there will be an exchange of movies before we reach Long Beach.

HOUSTON LOSES TO S. L. C. ON ADUONAS COURTS IN CHILE

Playing an exhibition game before an enthusiastic crowd of Chilean Basketball fans last Monday evening, the HOUSTON and SALT LAKE CITY basketeers displayed a fine brand of ball despite the most unfavorable conditions.

The fact that the fans were pleased was proved time and time again. The execution of deceptive floor plays and the sinking of difficult shots brought the crowd to their feet many times, thereby proving their keen interest in this great American sport.

Although a dirt court, dimly lighted and well ventilated due to every window being minus the usual pane of glass, the Cruiser teams gave a fine exhibition of fast clean basketball, at times displaying many of the fine points of the game.

The low score might indicate a strictly defensive game—such was not the case—rather, this game was wide open from the start and only the fact the dirt court made uncertain footing kept the score down for both teams.

Ensign Williams, ably assisted by Ensign Mackenzie, kept the game moving at a fast pace, and it must be said a cleaner game has not been played between Cruiser teams in some time, this, no doubt, being the result of excellent officiating.

The Chileans were overheard to say this game was one of the fastest games ever witnessed in Valparaiso.

Members of the HOUSTON squad on hand were: Mustain, Ulrey, Henderson, Adams, Jones, Devin, Brown, L.L. Stoddard, Freeman, O'Brien and Schmur. The final score: H-11, S.L.C.-14.

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE

The following dispatch has been received from ComBaseFor and is quoted for information: "0003 in view of necessity providing approximately five hundred seventy men for new construction and Asiatic Station, request records of all men be examined carefully for eligibility before reporting unable to fill quotas assigned. Authorized grant ratings ordered new construction East Coast via FAGTrans twenty days leave report expiration at own expense. 2107.

NAVY MAKES FAVORABLE IMPRESSION IN CHILE

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Heavy Cruisers believes has been carried out splendidly. He congratulates the officers and men for their performances in the task assigned."

These dispatches show a little of the official praise that we earned. Likewise, the unofficial praise all signified a "Well done". Except in a very few rare instances, every one handled himself in a very commendable manner. This visit went a long ways towards promoting a spirit of understanding and friendship between us and our South American Brothers.

BOATDECK GLEANINGS

With the help of an interpreter, a Chilean Senorita was heard to say that Kendyor had a face like a doll.

Of the six hundred and some odd men of this ship only one was dissatisfied with Valparaiso, he was Stoddard. He couldn't "Gigilo". Don't fret chicken, you can get your stride when we get to Long Beach.

A new pugalist has come to light. "G-man" Baugh was seen working out on a small, a very small, opponent. Who knows, we may have an all Navy champ—possibly chump.

Many a forlorn hope came true while in Valparaiso, a beautiful senorita, good food and a bottle of champagne, all at the same table.

Pickens took off like a late model pursuit plane when he found out that he had to stand all night watches on the return trip. Or was he like an enraged Texas steer (long horn Pickens). He complains the treatment isn't fair; evidently things clicked in Valparaiso.

"Photo Gallery" Loop gathered quite a collection of reminders while in our friendly South American Port. He got all but one, that being a picture of the four cruisers and the Chilean battleship.

"Stow-it-in" Hurley did honors with the Chilean foods and wines; let's hope they do right by him.

Kinhartz, can't you remember to conduct yourself properly in a Foreign port?

Sheffield started to drink all the champagne in South America only to fail miserably—in the end.

VALPARAISO—THE CITY ON A MOUNTAINSIDE

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open and a dark, dapper, little man of slender build marched to the bar and demanded a drink for a freezing man. He smiled and turning to the Navy man and remarked, "Only a pair of fools would venture out on such a nasty night." Thus the ice was broken and with a marked Spanish accent he talked on; of himself, his family, work and his beloved country. It developed that he was the Chilean Consul at the Chinese port of Amoy and that his home was in Valparaiso.

This chance of meeting led to a deep friendship between these two and for three years there were other occasional meetings as circumstances brought them together again. The sailor had never been in Valparaiso and at the time had little thought of ever going there. His Chilean friend talked often of his home and described the city with the warmth that only one of Latin blood can have for his birthplace. He insisted that if and when his friend in the Navy should go there he would be surprised at Valparaiso's peculiar location and unique transportation system. His detailed explanation of the contraption used for transporting passengers up the precipitous sides of the mountains on which the City is built, still left the sailor wondering what the escalator-elevator-tramcar vehicle called "Acensor" by the Valparaisians really was.

Four years later this same Navy man did go to the Chilean city and immediately found out for himself about this strange conveyance which had puzzled him all those years. The Ascensor has no counterpart in all the world, being characteristic of Valparaiso's odd situation on the sheer mountainsides, where even a mountain goat would find hazardous climbing.

Why anyone should wish to build a city where the Andes drop straight into the sea from the height of several hundred feet is indeed mystifying. Perhaps it was the natural deepwater harbor; the reason isn't important now for it is there and those who call it home must make the best of it. The best they do make too! One can't help but admire the ingenuity which overcame the obstacle of having nowhere

to live and no way to get there. The business section is built on a narrow shelf, never more than two or three blocks wide, which runs along the base of the mountains for more than two miles. All of this land has been reclaimed from the sea by dredging.

The residential section is literally piled, one house on top of another, up the sides of cliffs and precipices like a child's toy blocks. There is little regularity in the way this section is laid out; rough winding streets that are no more than paths twist and turn between the houses that cling precariously to the steep, jutting sides of crags and seem to need just a gentle push to send them tumbling straight into the busy streets of trade below.

Every few blocks along the face of the hills are the tracks of the Ascensor with the box-like cable cars crawling up and down every five minutes. Though the tracks usually rise in an almost vertical line the little cages are so arranged on different length wheel supports—the short one toward the top—that it is in a horizontal position. When one enters the station and drops his ticket at the turnstile, it is much the same as entering the conventional elevator and the sensation of rising straight into the air is the same. As the teeming streets of banks and shops drop beneath the cage a marvelous view can be had of the city below, the ships at anchor in the beautiful harbor, and the snow capped mountain peaks in the far distance.

As he scrambled through the narrow rocky streets between these homes of modern cliff-dwellers, he wondered how they managed to get up there before the Ascensor was thought of, for it is no exaggeration to say it would be folly for a cat to attempt to climb the sides of some of those hills.

Nearly every city in the world has some peculiarities of location, terrain, style of building or means of transportation which gives it a mark of distinction and sets it apart from other cities. If one remembers that and judges Valparaiso accordingly, we find that this remarkable Chilean city has no parallel on the face of the earth and is worth seeing if for no other reason than its amazing location.

—Adam Chatterbox

Don't waste water! Let's get the "E"!