

Some Sidelights From Vera Cruz

Interesting Little Tales of Incidents and Conditions at the Mexican Port Where the American Flag Is Waving

By WILLIAM G. SHEPHERD
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

VERA CRUZ, Mexico, May 23.—Here's a school room scene twenty-five years from now:

Teacher—Why is April 25, 1914, famous in American history?



W. G. Shepherd.

Up goes the hand of every boy, waving wildly.

Teacher—Willie, you may answer.

Willie—It's the day on which an aeroplane was first used in an American war.

Sammy, unable to keep silent—I know more about it than that. It happened at Vera Cruz, Mexico, and it almost scared the Mexicans to death. Even the cows and horses ran away from it and the people thought it was a terrible animal and hid in their houses.

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Teacher—Willie! Sammy—There were two men in the aeroplane. Bollinger flew it, but Dick Saufley rode beside him and made a chart of all the territory around Vera Cruz showing where bridges were burned, tracks torn up and where some Mexican soldiers that they flew over were throwing up entrenchments.

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Teacher—No! Patrick N. L. Bollinger of Charleston, South Carolina, not Pat.

Willie—That's it. And before he flew in an aeroplane he commanded a submarine and once made a target record with a 12-inch gun from the battleship South Carolina. He had light eyes and he came from one of the best families in the South and he could dance as well as he could fly and all his friends called him Pat and he never got married because so many girls liked him that he didn't know which one to propose to.

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American soldiers to use the aeroplane in real warfare were the Southerners. Class is adjourned.

These school boys will have been talking of an event that delighted American refugees in Vera Cruz. The first flight of the navy aeroplane over Vera Cruz followed, by only two hours, the arrival of the machine on the battleship Mississippi. Lt. Commander Henry C. Mustin, of the Pensacola (Florida) navy aviation station, put his mechanicians to work on two Curtiss hydroplanes in the hangar on the deck of the battleship and by the time the fleet arrived off Vera Cruz the flying machines were ready for immediate use. They were lowered over the side of the ship by cranes and they scudded across the harbor to the beach under their own power.

Within a short time Bollinger and Saufley were in the air above the ships and circling over the town. The aeroplane had a tremendous effect on the natives of Vera Cruz.

Sharpshooting from houses, which had occurred every evening since the occupation, ceased immediately, as the rumor went abroad among the Mexicans that the aviators would drop a bomb on any house from which sharpshooting occurred.

In the evening the same two aviators made excursions far out into the country, returning with maps which indicated to Admiral Fletcher the exact position of the narrow and broad gauge railroad tracks and bridges.

Admiral Fletcher highly complimented the two aviators for the work and ordered the preparation of maps from the neat charts which Saufley had drawn in the air. Saufley's charts will probably find a place in one of the army or navy collections in the Washington Museum.

The Panama canal will save 8000 miles between New York and San Francisco. The distance to the Philippine islands is not reduced materially, however.

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versary of the league, and will render the following program:

Processional—Lead on, O King

Eternal—League Choir

Prayer—Rev. E. C. Richards

Responsive Readings—League and Congregation

Song—Faith of Our Fathers

—Congregation

Valedictory—Miss Fern Wood

Salutatory—Miss Bee Summers

Special Song—Faith Brings the Victory

—League Choir

Health—Constance

Fisher, Iris Turner, Esther

Haines, Howard Orem, Jesse

Summers, Morris Meier.

Truth—Lucile

Waldron, Vera Wood, Ada

Ferris, Vera Smiler.

Special Song—Lord, Speak to Me

—League Choir

The Church and the City

—Clifford Sevitts

The Church and the Country

—Wayne Keesee

The League and the Liquor Business

—Ferris, Skillington, Keesee, Elliott

Song—The Fight Is on

—Congregation

The Church and the Children

—Miss Gertrude Beals and Inez Elliott

The Church and the Home

—Mrs. Roy King

Song—Home, Sweet Home

—Congregation

The League and Play

—John Hutchens

The League and Efficiency

—Roy King

The League and Christian Experience

—Miss Pearl Talley

Special Song—Take Time to Be Holy

—League Choir

The League and Evangelism

—Miss Gertrude Beals, Miss Inez Elliott, Roy King and E. M. Chilcote

Quartette—Miss Gertrude Beals, Miss Inez Elliott, Roy King and E. M. Chilcote

Anniversary Offering for Missionary Work of the League

Song—True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted

—Congregation

Benediction

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