

THE VANISHING FLEETS

By ROY NORTON
ILLUSTRATED BY A. WEIL

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The king had watched the sights below as long as they were visible. Through his glasses he had seen the streets become filled with excited men, women and children, and their shoutings had come to him faintly above the hum of the dynamos. The glimmerings of the great harbor dimmed and died away, and here and there could be descried the lights of the slow steaming patrol ships keeping the outpost watch upon the sea. When the last sign of life had vanished, he turned to his companions in silence, thinking of all that had taken place within the few recent hours.

Only a short time ago they had entered this aerial chamber, standing in dread of the unknown terror of the waters and the menacing silence of this western continent they were leaving behind. Only a few hours past they had trembled at the powerlessness of their nation and shudderingly awaited the shock of invasion.

Now they were going back to England bearing news that would upset old ideas, remove all fear for the future, and ally her with the most powerful nation history had ever known. They had sailed away furtively with darkened ports, and were now returning in a glare of white light, careless of who might observe. Events had followed each other in such remarkable sequence, with such astounding rapidity, that it wearied the mind to follow them. The king was pondering over the new situation when with no preliminary notice every light in the radioplane went out and they were left in darkness.

From without and through the open door came the voices of the admiral and engineer in conversation:

"It can't be an enemy."

"Hardly; but we dare take no chances."

"What do you think it is?"

"I don't know. A minute or two will tell if they have seen us."

The king and his countrymen fumbled for their glasses in the darkness, found them, and lined themselves up against the transparent port which had not been closed. The cause of the sudden cautionary measures was apparent. There, comparatively far away, and high up against the starlit sky, they saw the blazing line of a searchlight thrust up into the darkness. It wavered uncertainly for



"The Soldierly Form of the Kaiser Appeared."

an instant, and then slowly, as if feeling its way, approached them. It seemed uncertain and for a moment disappeared. Their own machine had come to a halt.

For an instant nothing was visible, and then there leaped into the air a vertical beam of red. Beside it came another steady ray of brilliant white, and then to complete the color trio a vivid shaft of blue arrayed itself beside the other two. Outside in the hood they heard a wild unrestrained burst of cheering, and the cabin was again flooded with light. The old admiral stepped hurriedly in, his face aglow, and his cap in his hand.

"We have sighted the Norma, your majesty, the craft which disappeared with his imperial majesty, the emperor of Germany."

Before he had finished speaking the signal calling hearers to the wireless telephone buzzed insistently, and he turned to answer. From the dome above they could see answering lights playing rapidly from their own craft. They heard Bevins talking to some one excitedly, and peering once more through the side ports saw they were rushing onward to meet this other traveler of the spaces. With decreasing speed the two approached each other, retaining their altitude high above and beyond sound of the sea. Now they were floating abreast, and finally, after a moment's tensing, they

came to a stop. Their metal sides came together with an almost imperceptible jar, and they adjusted them selves for further communication.

Simultaneously their great ports slid open, and the king, who had gone to the companionway, saw the interior of the other radioplane. Bevins and Brockton in delight were shaking hands and congratulating each other. They talked for a moment, and then the rear admiral retired from view. Bevins turned to the king and said: "Your majesty, the emperor of Germany wishes to come aboard."

Before the king could give his assent the soldierly form of the kaiser appeared outlined in the light of his own port, took a cautious step across the threshold, and stood before the men of England. Whatever doubts he may have had of his reception were set aside by the hands outstretched to receive him and the words of welcome which the king hastened to give him. The bulky form of the chancellor came behind, and then, conducted by the king, they turned and entered the cabin. Brockton and Bevins brought up the rear. At one end of the table stood the American secretary of state, and beside him were the prime minister of England and the lord of the admiralty. The chancellor ponderously edged his way forward until he was near them, leaving the king and his imperial nephew on the opposite side of the table.

The visitors greeted and were presented to the others, and then, for the fraction of a minute, they all stood confronting and expectant until the king with his usual tact put an abrupt end to the restraint by inviting all to be seated, and asking for an explanation of the accident. The kaiser curbed his anxiety for news of developments, and briefly recounted his adventure, appealing now and then to Brockton for details which he did not understand. He concluded, and hesitated for an instant in embarrassed silence. Before he could formulate the opening question in a delicate subject the king had again stepped into the breach.

"The world will soon be at peace," he said meaningly, looking at his kinsman. "We have come from a meeting in America with the man who has so decreed it, and I have had the honor of joining him in plans for the future."

"And Germany?"

"Will be glad."

"But her allotment?"

"The privilege of being one of the foremost in the movement."

"With dignity and honor?"

"Yes, and with an opportunity to play her part voluntarily."

England's king, grave and gray and reading men from the serene heights of long life and philosophy, had expected a tempestuous outburst; but to his contentment none came. He studied the face of the ruler who had gained a world-wide reputation for warlike ambitions and constant turbulence, whose mailed fist had long been clenched in readiness for a blow, and was surprised. No sign of storm was apparent, but instead a calm and placid pair of eyes stared back at him.

In rapid sentences he told of the president's design, which Great Britain would accept and which she had helped outline in detail, and closed by predicting the results which would follow. He talked low and earnestly, leaning his elbows on the table before him and addressing himself only to the emperor. His summary concluded, he straightened back into the hollow of his chair and waited for the others to speak.

The chancellor, who had been so intent that he had never changed attitude or expression, shifted his gaze from the king to his sovereign, who for a time sat wrapped in thought. As if he had come to a quick conclusion, he looked up and in three words expressed his views. "It looks perfect," he said. The chancellor smiled, the king looked satisfied and the prime minister with a sigh of relief gave a quick sidelong glance at the American secretary of state. The lord of the admiralty was rubbing his hands.

"Germany asks nothing more than fairness," the emperor said, "and I think she will gladly accept and enter into the conclave. It will upset her more than any other nation perhaps, because she is founded on military form; but the whole world shall understand that she permits no nation, race or people to go beyond her in enlightened methods." His stern expression changed to one of warmth. He smiled at some thought of his own and continued:

"We all change, I suppose, as we advance. I have learned that one may have his ideas enlarged by accident. I have known for many days what it is to be free to think, to learn profound lessons in philosophy from the forest and streams, and have come nearer to men of the American nation than I had ever hoped. I have formed new friendships, and by the camp fires at night have been given other views of life, of men and humanity, by a most admirable teacher."

He nodded his head toward Brockton, paused for a moment and then laughed aloud. "I caught a trout that weighed nearly four pounds and shot four carbou!" he chuckled.

At this incongruous termination of his speech his hearers gasped, and then waited for him to continue, which he did in humorous vein, interspersed with comments of graver trend. And in this recountal of adventure they read of his broadening. By suggestion he conveyed to them that

he had gone away on a strange journey wrapped in the cares and dignities of position to be taught many lessons in democracy.

He had worked with his hands,

shared the annoyances of his companions, and known the joys of independence and self-support. He had discovered the trappings of courts to be shallow emblems and tawdry when contrasted with the true coats of primitive nature. He had learned that men when stripped of outward rank and position were very similar, and could demand only such respect from their fellows as they were entitled to by merit. Honest companionship which sought no other return was a priceless treasure. And now with this new view of life, stronger in health and unjaundiced in mind, he was glad to ally himself and his empire in a movement which promised advancement without conquest and gain without aggression. The drums of war sounded very hollow, and their unusual beatings were dying away in the distance, going to inglorious silence and disuse. It was better so!

In response to an order from Bevins, a servant with noiseless feet and deft hands brought refreshments to them. The king rose, and the others immediately stood.

"Before we part company and resume our way to our homes," he said, "I shall ask you to drink my toast." He stood erect, lifted his glass high in the air until the lights above caught the quivering opalescent liquid in their rays, and then in a voice of extreme reverence said:

"Gentlemen, to the ruler of that greatest of all kingdoms, Peace, his excellency the president of the United States."

(To be continued.)

Bruises, scratches, sores and burns that other things have failed to cure will heal quickly and completely when you use DeWitt's Carbolized Witch Hazel Salve. It is especially good for piles. Sold by all druggists.

REMINGTON NOTES

Gus Merritt spent Sunday in Chicago.

Luce Bartoo came home from Chicago Saturday.

Harry Gilbert returned home from Chicago Sunday.

Mrs. I. N. Beal visited relatives at Sheldon and Watska last week.

John Hobbs visited his wife and little son at Morocco over Sunday.

Miss Rees, of Chicago, visited Mrs. Howard Jones and family last week.

Harley Coover, of Kentland, visited relatives here Sunday and Monday.

Mr. Burgess visited relatives at Crawfordville from Saturday until Tuesday.

John Keith visited his parents at Paris Crossing from Sunday until Tuesday.

Ora Crow, of LaCrosse, visited his uncle, Wm. Capes, and other relatives here over Sunday.

Mrs. Abbie Thompson, of Monticello visited her mother, Mrs. Rawlings, several days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood, of Kentland, visited their daughter, Mrs. Harry Hartley, several days last week.

Mrs. E. A. Hunt visited her nephew, Chas. Hemingway, and family in Chicago the past week.

Miss Matie Guy has been visiting her father, Jasper Guy, and other relatives since Friday of last week.

F. L. Lough arrived last week and is ready to take up his position as assistant cashier as soon as the new bank opens.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Milford Bowley, Oct. 24th, a daughter; to Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Lucas, Oct. 30th, son.

The Misses Mary Bartoo and Kate Green spent Saturday and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Bartee at Lafayette.

Wellington Morris, of Chicago, came Sunday for a short visit with his sister, Mrs. Homer Lambert, and other relatives.

Mrs. Leon Cummons and little son returned home Sunday from a two weeks' visit with her sister, Mrs. Smith, in Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Bonner, Jr. returned home Saturday from their honeymoon trip in Chicago and other places in the east.

Dr. Emil Besser spent Sunday in Chicago Heights with his sister, Mrs. Harry Funk, and family, and his mother, who is also visiting there.

Miss Laughlin, of Missouri, and Miss Ellen Laughlin, of Logan, Iowa, have been visiting W. O. Roadifer and family the past two weeks.

You can cure dyspepsia, indigestion, sour or weak stomach, or in fact any form of stomach trouble if you will take Kodol occasionally—just at the times when you need it. Kodol does not have to be taken all the time. Ordinarily you only take Kodol now and then, because it completely digests all the food you eat, and after a few days or a week or so, the stomach can digest the food without the aid of Kodol. Then you don't need Kodol any longer. Try it today on our guarantee. We know what it will do for you. Sold by all druggists.

Gillam Township.

Invitations are out announcing the marriage of Miss Effie E. Odom to Lloyd E. Low, on Thursday evening, November 5th, at 6 o'clock.

Chickens hens that have been working this vicinity for the last six or seven weeks have been apprehended at last, it is thought, and are now in the Knox jail awaiting trial in the circuit court at Wima-mac.

Marshall Goff, teacher at West Vernon school was a visitor at Leonard Hayes' school in Barkley, Oct. 26th.

Winter has begun, the first snow falling on the morning of November 1st.

James Lowery and family of Pulkaski were visitors at the home of Frank Lowery's over Sunday.

Mrs. Fanny Querry is on the sick list.

Miss Cosgray, of Fairview, visited Miss Urea Miller, at Glendale, Friday. Ora Craver's were guests of Frank Lafever's Sunday.

Herbert Fairis and wife were entertained at the home of Theodore Roman's Sunday.

P. T. Robinson, wife, and daughter Lesse, and grandpa Tillett were in Rensselaer on business one day last week.

Frank Tillett's entertained Mr. and Mrs. Reece of Francesville Sunday.

The Gillam gravel road progressed very rapidly last week.

Miss Ida Waggoner has gone on an extended trip to Illinois.

Miss Eva and Mrs. Lolo Faris were visitors at the home of M. W. Cope Thursday.

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