

Seaman On City Of Flint Talks About Recent Adventurous Trip

Herman A. Haddock Visits Here A Short While Sunday Night

Says Germans Were Far More Considerate Than Ship Captain

Released from the City of Flint, the United States freighter captured by the German pocket battleship, Deutschland, last October, Herman A. Haddock passed through here early this week to visit relatives in Plymouth and in Pitt County. Celebrating a bit, the seaman supplemented the tales that came thick and fast from the City of Flint during the time it was in the hands of a German prize crew.

The City of Flint finally docked in Baltimore last week after one of the war's strangest adventures, and Mr. Haddock, a seaman, was glad to get his release from the much-publicized consideration shown members of the American crew by the Germans as in marked contrast to the mistreatment he charges against the Flint's skipper, Captain Joseph A. Gainerd, during the course of the 113-day voyage. Haddock joined the City of Flint after it had returned several hundred survivors of the British liner Athenia to America the latter part of September and sailed from New York on October 3rd on its epochal voyage during which it was captured by the German raider, sailed to Murmansk, Russia, under the direction of the Nazi prize crew; restored to its own crew when Norway interned the Germans; and delayed by a collision with a British ship in a Norwegian harbor.

Incidentally, Haddock discounted tales told by other members of the crew, alleging that a plot had been hatched to recapture the ship from the German crew. He said that he knew of no such plot, although such a course was discussed briefly by members of the crew at mess on one occasion. "The only thing we could do was to sail the ship as the Germans ordered," Haddock said, "there wasn't a chance that we could regain control while they were aboard."

Newspaper accounts given by some of the other members of the Flint crew said that time bombs were planted on the ship and that the Nazis had their machine guns set up and trained on the bridge and decks, while Haddock says the prize crew brought two machine guns and three time bombs aboard with them but kept them in sea bags in the chart room, which was well guarded and accessible only to the Germans. He said the guns were not set up or the bombs planted about the ship at any time, although the captors did display them to the City of Flint crew when they came aboard.

The only weapon on the Flint when it was captured was a pistol which the captain had locked in his safe, and when the German officers boarded the vessel they forced the captain to turn it over to them. Each member of the prize crew was armed with a Luger pistol and hand grenades for their protection and to enforce their orders.

Claims He Was Mistreated

Haddock says he contracted food poisoning from eating the food on the ship after it left Murmansk, Russia, and was sent to a hospital in Bergen, Norway, after the ship was returned to Captain Gainerd by the Norwegians. Claiming that Captain Gainerd was more cruel than the Germans, Haddock charged that after he was released from the Norwegian hospital, following a stay of 41 days, the captain ordered him to return to his regular work with the crew after only a two-day rest, although he was supposed to do light work for 10 days.

As further evidence of the American skipper's harshness, Haddock said he assigned the survivors of the English freighter Stonegate—sunk by the Deutschland and its crew put aboard the City of Flint—to the coldest part of the ship and curly told them "no working, no eating." The sympathetic American sailors gave part of their clothing to the British

Smith Says Census Survey in County Is Shaping Up Rapidly

Claude Smith, head of the census survey in this county, says he is making rapid progress in gathering the statistical data needed from the various business firms for the national survey.

"I have just about covered the county with the exception of Robersonville and Williamston and next week I will begin working in these towns," Mr. Smith said. The work in this county was begun January 2, and every county store and every rural and business firm, regardless of where it is located, has been contacted. The information obtained was based exclusively on business transacted during 1939, Mr. Smith stated. "Most of the people I called on were very courteous and cooperated to the fullest extent. Many of those I called on kept no books or records and it was rather difficult to arrive at accurate figures," he said.

World's Largest Airplane On Way For the U. S. Army

Washington — The army is building the world's largest plane, believed capable of flying to Europe and back without stopping.

Authoritative sources disclosed that this was the ship which J. Edgar Hoover was talking about when he told Congressmen recently how the plans had been stolen and then recovered by G-men.

The 70-ton craft, understood to have a wing spread of more than 200 feet, is nearing completion now in the Santa Monica, Calif., plant of the Douglas Aircraft Company.

At least one foreign government was said to be interested in the plane, which would dwarf any army plane now in service. Army and commercial engineers, who have been working on the plane for 18 months, were understood to plan first tests next summer.

The plane's new model high-powered motors promise a range 6,000 or possibly 7,000 miles. Another development was a report that the nation's reserve of trained civilian flyers increased 37 per cent during 1939, and the number of civil airplanes 24 per cent.

How Ship Was Captured

According to Haddock, on the sixth day out of New York, the City of Flint was halted by the Deutschland, which drew alongside to put aboard the 36 survivors of the Stonegate, previously sunk by the pocket battleship. The Flint was boarded about 4:30 in the afternoon by German officers, who found by looking over the manifest that the American freighter was carrying contraband. The Nazis then took over the ship and put on board three officers and 15 seamen in addition to the 36 men from the Stonegate.

The officer in command of the prize crew decided not to attempt to run the blockade of the British fleet and take the cargo, including over 6,000 barrels of oil, nickel and other contraband, to Germany. Instead the freighter was taken to Murmansk, Russia, where the ship was at first turned back to the American crew by the Russians and the Germans taken off. Three days later, after diplomats of several countries had battled vainly for the ship's release, the German prize crew was returned to the vessel and it was ordered to leave.

On October 28 the Flint left the Russian port started its voyage down the Norwegian coast. It sailed within the territorial waters of Norway all the way, Haddock said, never more than three miles offshore. The ship was trailed by a Norwegian patrol boat, the officers of which warned the Germans the first time they dropped anchor that if they did this

again in Norwegian waters the prize crew would be interned and the boat turned back to the Americans. At the mouth of the Hagesund harbor, the City of Flint anchor was dropped again, and the Norwegians immediately boarded her, took off the Germans and informed the American skipper he was free to proceed. The ship went up the coast to Bergen, where Haddock went to the hospital, later returning to Hagesund to discharge the cargo. The freighter then went to another Norwegian port, where it received a cargo of iron ore and headed back home around the Great Arctic Circle route to avoid capture again.

When the ship reached Baltimore last week, members of the crew were paid off, each receiving a cash bonus of 25 per cent of his wages.

Mr. Haddock has been in the merchant marine service for about six years, but said here today that he was through for the time being, at least. Married in 1936, he declared he and Mrs. Haddock were visiting here on their second honeymoon. He said that he might leave his wife again to work on vessels in the coastwise service, but that he was not going to return to ships in the North Atlantic service while mines and submarines and battleships were as plentiful as they are now.

New Use Found For Aluminum Product

Chances are that when you read in the papers that the aluminum industry enjoyed its largest volume in history in 1939, you visualize flocks of airplanes and fleets of air-splitting, streamlined trains. True enough, these, along with electric cable, are major volume outlets. But the astronomers have found a use for the "metal of the air" that might qualify it as the metal of the stratosphere—and beyond—too.

Not much of an item where volume is concerned, but an important scientific contribution of 1939 is its use in coating mirrors.

Although only a few cents' worth is required—to coat the 12 mirrors, including the 100-inch astronomical giant, of Mt. Wilson observatory in California. Before aluminum reflecting surfaces were employed it had been necessary to recoat such mirrors twice a year. The aluminum coating is only 1-250,000ths of an inch thick. When the still larger Mt. Palomar telescope is placed in service in 1940, thousands of tons of steel and concrete will be used to hold in place a single ounce of aluminum.

Higher temperatures all over the world during the past 25 years indicate that the heat from the sun may have increased temporarily for some reason unknown to scientists. High temperatures and deficiency in moisture, usually—but not always—coincide.

50-Year Job Seen For C.C.C. Camps

There is enough work in this country to keep a Civilian Conservation Corps of 1,500 camps busy 50 years, declared a report to Congress written before his death by Director Robert Fechner.

Notwithstanding this vast field, the corps is a victim of the "economy drive" and is to be cut to 1,227 camps or an average monthly enrollment of 280,000 men, the report said.

Reviewing the activities which he directed from their inception, six years and three months ago, Fechner recalled that relief had been provided to 2,600,000 young men, veterans and Indians. To merely list the achievement of the forest army would take more than a column of Labor.

"The greatest single accomplishment," Fechner wrote, "has been its ability to make productive use of otherwise unwanted manpower."

Weather Men Say That A Wet, Cold Cycle Will Follow

It Has Been Unusually Hot And Dry During Past Five Years

Washington — There is no doubt about it, says the U. S. Weather Bureau, it has been unusually hot and dry the last few years.

Thousands have written the bureau asking "Is our climate changing?" "Not necessarily," answers the bureau, "but the weather certainly is."

Many people confuse weather and climate, F. W. Reichelderfer, chief of the bureau, explained. Weather, he said, is the condition over short periods—days, weeks, months and even several years—while climate is average weather over a much longer period, perhaps 10 years.

"During the present decade there has been a decided tendency to dry weather and for more than 20 years a tendency to abnormal warmth, notwithstanding an occasional bad flood or cold winter," Dr. Reichelderfer said.

Climate does change, but it will take records for a good many more years to prove that it has in the United States. Weather bureau records, however, indicate the recent hot, dry years were just a warm phase of normal climate.

The present farm, dry phase as typified by three nationwide destructive droughts—1930, 1934 and 1936—and by a general warmth not exceeded for a century," Reichelderfer said.

As an example of subnormal rainfall, he brought out a chart showing that in the Dakotas the shortage of water, as compared with normal, was 3,000 tons per acre between 1930 and 1936. Those states were in the area hardest hit by the droughts.

The summers are getting hotter and the winters milder, bureau records showed. For the country as a whole every winter for the past 25 years, with the exception of those of 1917-18 and 1935-36, have been uniformly warmer than normal.

How long this warm, dry trend in weather will continue, the bureau will not even guess. But on one point the weather experts are agreed. It will be followed by a cooler, wetter phase, when there will be more rainfall and lower temperatures.

Higher temperatures all over the world during the past 25 years indicate that the heat from the sun may have increased temporarily for some reason unknown to scientists. High temperatures and deficiency in moisture, usually—but not always—coincide.

Specialist Addresses Robersonville Group

L. T. Weeks Speaks Of Problems Now Facing the Grower

Less Than Half Leaf Crop Is Needed to Balance Production and Consumption

By PAUL D. ROBERSON

Robersonville, N. C., January 31.—Mr. L. T. Weeks, tobacco specialist of N. C. State College Extension Service, addressed the Robersonville Rotary club and some friends who were the guests of the Rotary club, last Friday night on the subject of "Tobacco."

As to the present situation and outlook of the tobacco farmer, the speaker stated that the 1939 flue-cured tobacco crop was over 1,117,000,000 pounds, which is 117,000,000 pounds more than was estimated by the government at the time the market quotas were determined. As a result we will have about 325,000,000 pounds more tobacco than will be consumed during the current year. Due to the fact that the 1939 crop was one-fourth larger than any previous record crop, we will have the 325,000,000 pounds of tobacco more on hand when the next season begins than when the market opened last season. This means that the stock of July 1, 1940, will be approximately 475 million pounds more than we had last year at the beginning of the market season.

As to the export markets for our tobacco, the speaker would not venture an opinion, due to the latest move by Great Britain. However, it was pointed out that our export trade looked very gloomy at this time. The domestic companies have enough tobacco on hand at the present time to supply their demands for three years and nine months. Britain has enough of our flue cured tobacco on hand to last for two years and six months without further purchases on our markets. Should they blend a larger quantity of Turkish or European tobaccos with our flue-cured, then the supply that they have on hand will last even longer. Before the British companies went off the market, they were buying approximately one-third of the total amount of the flue-cured tobacco.

The Commodity Credit Corporation is now holding approximately 175,000,000 pounds of flue-cured tobacco, which is about one-half of the surplus. If the British companies do not take up the option on this to-

NOT WORRIED

Delayed by freezing weather, Martin County farmers are not worrying, as yet, about planting their tobacco beds. "Between now and the middle of the month, most farmers will complete the preparation of their plant beds and that will be ample time," one farmer said last night while attending the County Farm Bureau forum here.

bacco, this will remain here as a surplus to be used in some manner. In 1940, there needs to be produced only about one-half of the crop to get the production in line with the consumption.

The speaker advised to produce the crop for 1940 just as cheaply as possible and to get as good quality as possible. He emphasized the fact that we need a well-balanced program, to raise our own feed crop and food and to get away from the idea of using tobacco as a cash crop to purchase all of our other needs of life. It was suggested that we do as

burley tobacco growers, and only raise enough tobacco to buy those things we cannot raise at home. We need to pay more attention to the food crops for the tenant, e. g., gardens, potatoes, fruits, truck crops and the like which will enable them

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It is going to be impossible to see each and everyone of you, but we will appreciate very much the opportunity to figure with you for your needs. Won't you see us before you buy.

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To the CITIZENS of EVERETTS

Officials from State and County Boards of Health, will meet with the Everetts Town Commissioners

Tuesday Night

February 6th — 7:30 o'clock

In the School Auditorium. The purpose of the meeting is to hear presented plans for a water and sewerage system for the town. Every voter and property owner is requested to be present for the meeting.

C. B. Riddick, Mayor

Mr. Farmer

We wish to invite you to a meeting to be held at the Agriculture Building, Williamston, N. C., promptly at 1:00 P. M., Monday, February 5th.

At this meeting we will have Mr. Blake Pullen, of Warwick, Ga., who is recognized in the South as the hog and watermelon king. Mr. Pullen will thoroughly go into the raising, care and marketing of hogs, and can give you the advantage of his successful years of experience as a hog raiser, having over 200 brood sows of his own.

We will also discuss at this meeting a grape planting program in which Garrett and Company will furnish you grape rootings at no cash outlay and guarantee to buy your grapes for a period of 20 years.

With the present outlook of crop controlling, we believe the above programs should be well considered as a new source of income for the farmers in this section.

We are looking forward to seeing you present

Monday, Feb. 5th

At 1:00 P. M.

Lindsley Ice Co.