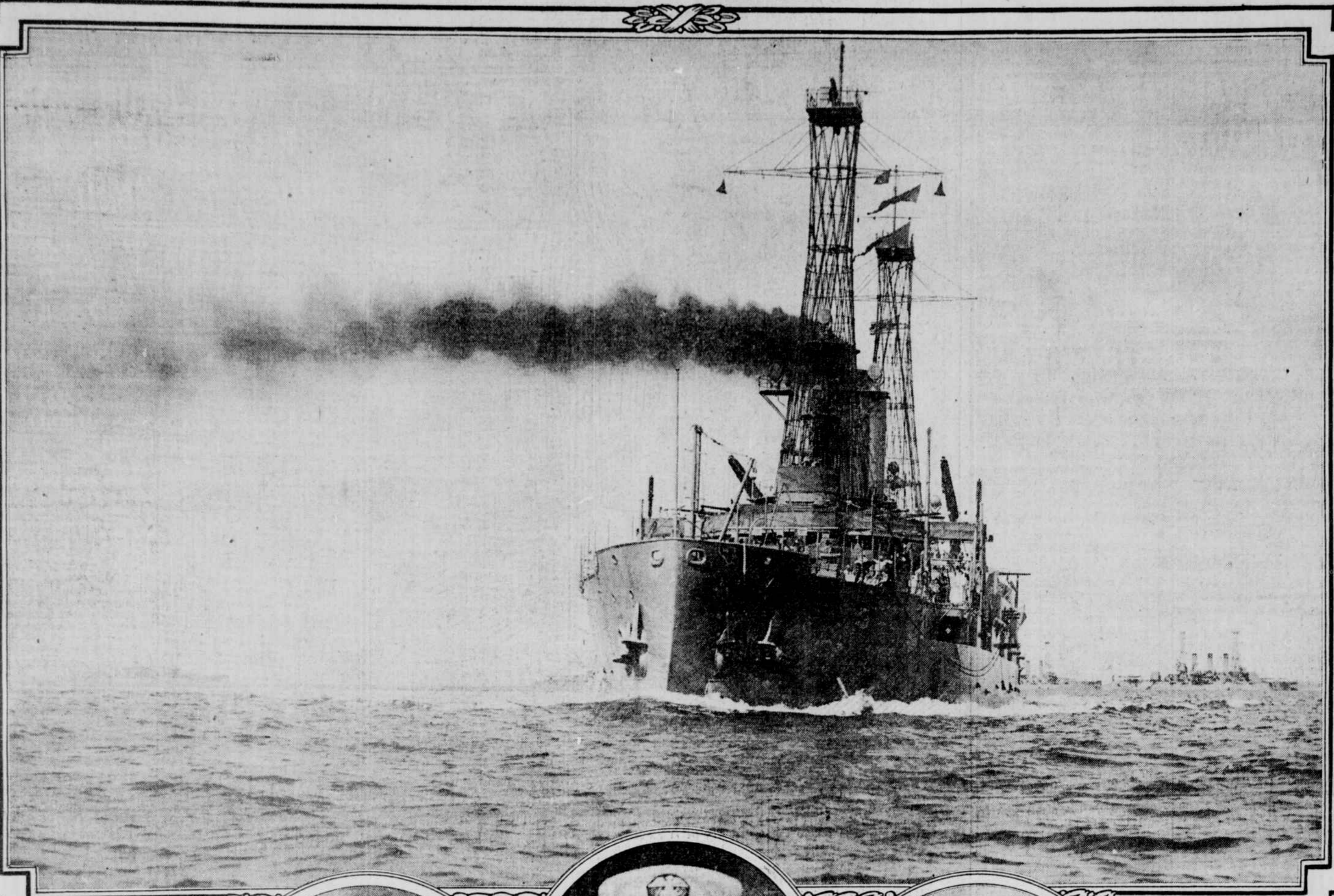




NAVY'S GUNNERS HOLD WORLD RECORDS



LOUISIANA
Phenomenal Accuracy of Marksmanship Shown in Tests.

By EARL N. FINDLEY.
THE siesta is abandoned. Whether the mighty guns of our floating fortresses blow any more holes in the land and sea in Huerta's vicinity or not, their presence has proved that some people can be reasoned with, while some have to be knocked down before they can understand. Perhaps we may assume that they will blow holes in the Dictator's sullen attitude.

He seems to be an Indian who must be hammered into entertaining a suspicion that he is out of adjustment with his environment. He delights, apparently, to appear impervious to any argument less emphatic than a cannon ball.

Auto-suggestion does not interest him.
Therefore, the grand total of men in the navy ready to obey orders in Mexico at this writing numbers 17,950 blue-jackets, 3,970 marines and 855 officers.

Our barkers are in the hands of men who put efficiency in engineering—men able to tell to a fraction the waste energy of the dog who turns around three times before he lies down. The battle irons, in short, are in the keeping of men who are warranted to bring with precision the desired result—whatever it may be—in the briefest possible time known to the science of engineering. These are the days of Maxim guns, repeating rifles, cordite and lyddite, and all the rest of the infernal paraphernalia.

Will automatic suggestion teach Huerta anything?
ADVANTAGE OF TRAINED CREW IN NAVY.

The Spanish-American War demonstrated that five ships with trained crews are better than ten ships with untrained crews—that men are, after all, more important than types of ships. It also demonstrated that our sailors, so far as courage was concerned, possessed the same qualities in the presence of the machine that their ancestors possessed in the old sailing frigate.

Time has not changed their nature, however much it may have modified their occupation.

Familiarity with guns and machinery is the essential element of success in a modern battleship. In two pitched

battles of decisive importance the fleet of Spain was virtually annihilated by the men behind the guns on the ships of Uncle Sam, and this without the loss to us of a single ship and at the cost of a solitary human life.

Our ships did the work off Cuba with the precision of machines set up on shore, and nothing broke down in the stress of action. The rapid and complete destruction of the whole Spanish fleet was accomplished within three and a half hours after it had emerged under full head of steam. The world awoke to the tremendous efficiency of the American navy as a fighting machine. The Spanish ships were good—in peace.

We have not neglected manoeuvres in peace. Incessant drilling upon the sea has made the American, British and French fleets so formidable. Target practice in these three navies and the German has received the utmost possible attention. Naval warfare is no mere matter of luck and pluck.

OUR FORCES AVAILABLE AT MEXICAN PORTS.

The Dictator is developing into a jumping toothache. Because a man may have the influenza or a headache or suffer from homesickness right after the tooth is pulled is no assurance that it would be wise to retain the tooth because of that contingency.

Therefore, the following ships are standing by while the forceps are about to be applied.

The strength of the naval forces on the Atlantic and Pacific available for use in offensive operations against Mexico is clearly shown in the detailed statement below, issued by the Navy Department at Washington:

FORCES AVAILABLE.

At Vera Cruz, battleships Arkansas, Hampshire, South Carolina, Minnesota; USS Chester; mine layer San Francisco; fuel ship Solace; U. S. S. Dolphin; collier Cyclops.

At Tampico, cruiser Des Moines; hospital ship Solace; U. S. S. Dolphin; collier Cyclops.

At Tampico, cruiser Des Moines; hospital ship Solace; U. S. S. Dolphin; collier Cyclops.

It was during the Mexican struggle

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REAR ADMIRAL HENRY T. MAYO



REAR ADMIRAL

F. F. FLETCHER
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REAR ADMIRAL T. B. HOWARD
© PACH BROS. N. Y.



REAR ADMIRAL BADGER

© By PACH BROS. N. Y.

OFF FOR TAMPICO
Photo © E. Muller Jr.

Uncle Sam Pays Millions to Train Eyes of Gun Crews.

that the Monroe Doctrine was announced. France was going to send an army into Mexico to aid the Spaniards in subduing the revolt. President Monroe declared that such action would be regarded as inimical to the United States, and the French did not come.

GUNNERY RESULTS ARE HIGHLY SATISFACTORY.

To make a bull's-eye with a big navy gun, with a ship rolling and pitching and the enemy under full steam, is not easy. Gunners must have practice to do this. Our men have tried their guns repeatedly on all sorts of targets, at varying distances and under varying conditions, with remarkably satisfactory results.

During the Atlantic fleet's battle practice recently the Michigan established a new record for the navy, if not for the world, making practically 50 per cent of hits at 10,000 yards with 12-inch guns and at a moving target. Mind you, fourteen 12-inch shells in less than five minutes striking a target which at 10,000 yards looked no larger than a playing card, where the pointers had only a patch of canvas five feet wide to aim at and the ship speeding at sixteen knots.

Night firing—repelling attack of make-believe torpedo craft, unknown as to whereabouts and represented by small targets swinging to anchor—how do our men show up in this respect? You have to pass the station ship—its searchlight is pointed skyward—pick up your targets, hit them all or be penalized. Our men are loath to be penalized.

The gunnery of the American gun pointer almost defies description, and any truthful account of its accuracy must make Huerta an unwilling believer. During a battleship practice of the Atlantic fleet on the Southern manoeuvre ground the gunners made almost unbelievable percentages of hits, firing at distances as great as from the Battery to 135th st. Thirteen hits in fourteen shots at 14,000 yards were made—a world record.

The targets were 60 feet long. The modern battleship will average perhaps 180 feet in length, and this target

At Guaymas, collier Justin.
At Mazatlan, armored cruiser California; cruiser Raleigh.
At Topolobampo, collier Glacier; gunboat Yorktown.
At Salina Cruz, gunboat Annapolis; cruiser Deaver.

OTHERS AVAILABLE.

With an allowance of 2,500 men these vessels could be commissioned to Mexican service: The North Carolina, the Washington, the Tennessee, the Brooklyn, the Salem, the Sacramento and the Castine.

These destroyers are available when fully manned: The Flusser, the Reid, the Preston, the Monaghan, the Sterett and the Waikiki.

While many of these men are students of scientific methods in gunnery, resulting from the competition started ten years ago, it should be remembered that there is no class of men on board a ship with a higher sense of duty, better discipline or traditions or who are more apt to acquit themselves with credit in time of stress than the members of the engineers' division, according to Lieutenant Commander T. T. Craven, director of target practice, Navy Department, at Washington.

Their duties, he says, are of equal importance, if not of greater, than those of their shipmates who fight the guns. It is as necessary for a ship, when called upon for battle, to reach and to maintain a station favorable for the fighting as it is for skill and accuracy in gunnery after this station has been reached.

The men below cannot hope to see or to know what is taking place in the outer world in the final and supreme test for which a battleship is constructed. Without the morale and the training which will insure a proper performance on the part of the—at times termed—"black gang" success on the day of battle would be impossible.