

Capt. Bligh's Diary Traces Beginning of Famous Mutiny

The English Warship Bounty Anchors at Tahiti

SYNOPSIS OF FIRST INSTALMENT

Capt. William Bligh sails from England on H. M. S. Bounty, bound for the islands of the south Pacific. The purpose of the voyage is to carry seedlings of the breadfruit tree to the West Indies, where it is expected they will thrive and provide an important element of food for the natives.

By GUY MURCHIE JR. INSTALMENT II.

CHAPTER V.

LEUTENANT WILLIAM BLYGH of the British navy, captain of his majesty's armed ship Bounty, walked his cramped quarter-deck with a brisk step and an eye to the northeastern horizon.

The Bounty was plowing her way steadily through the transparent green water, rolling and creaking before a quartering west wind. Her rigging was rough with the cotted drift that drives in a northern breeze.

The Tahitians of this period have been described as tall, handsome, stalwart fellows of a light copper colour. They wore kilts of figured cloth of their own manufacture, light fringed capes thrown over their shoulders and joined at the throat, and turbans of brown cloth on their heads.

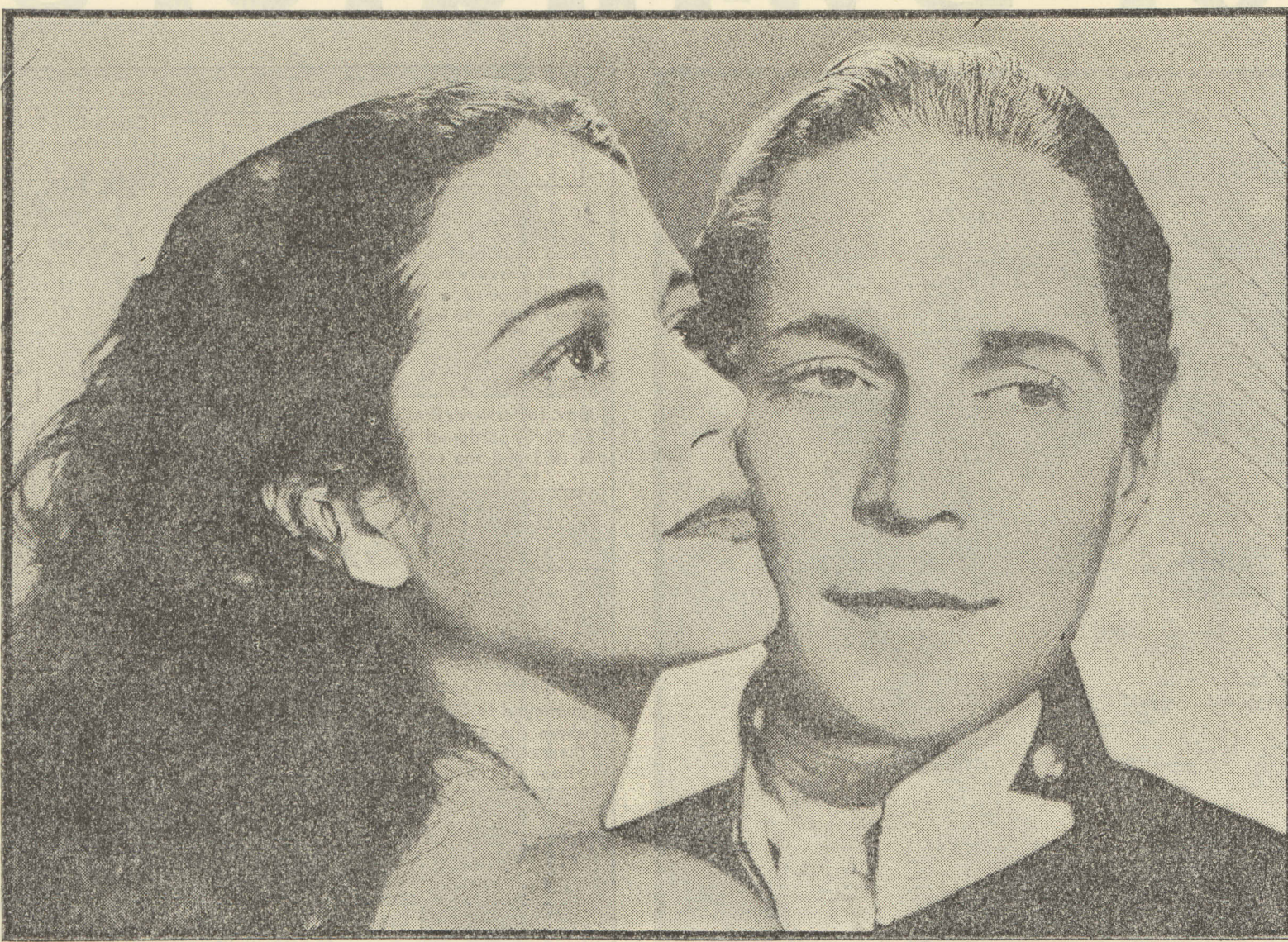
The few women who came on board at this time were all of the lower orders of society, and uncommonly diminutive as compared with the men. They wore skirts of white cloth falling in graceful undulations, and had their heads adorned with necklaces of the same material to protect their shoulders from the sun.

CHAPTER VI.

BUT despite the expedition's good fortune in respect to breadfruit, the seeds of mutiny were being sown in fatal quantities. Ashore, the seaward sailors found themselves in a land where comely and affectionate girls grew on almost every bush, a land as near to their idea of heaven as could be found on earth.

Otoo, who was the chief of Mataval when Captain Cook was here the last time, was absent at another part of the island; they told me messengers were sent to inform him of our arrival and that he was expected to return soon.

"Here," said he, "you shall be supplied plentifully with everything you want. All here are your friends, and friends of King George; if you go to the other islands you will



Franchot Tone and one of the girls who took the part of a Tahitian in the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film "Mutiny on the Bounty."

"Who was his father and mother?" was the next question. "I said, 'He never had father or mother.'" "At this they laughed exceedingly. "You have a god, then, who never had a father or mother and has a child without a wife?"

When I went on shore I found Otoo, Oberree-roah, Moanah, and several others in great tribulation at the thoughts that we were so soon to leave them. Their expressions of friendship and affection for me I could not disregard, and the next day I made arrangements to stay longer, and immediately made my intention public, which occasioned great rejoicing.

"At the relief of the watch at four o'clock this morning," he wrote on Jan. 5, "the small cutter was missing. I was immediately informed of it, and mustered the ship's company, when it appeared that three men were absent: Charles Churchill, the ship's corporal, and two of the seamen, William Muspratt and John Millward, the latter of whom had been centinel from twelve to two in the morning.

"On Nov. 8, while I was at dinner, Tinah desired I would permit a man to come down into the cabin whom he called his taovah, or priest. . . The company of the priest brought on a religious conversation. He said their great god was called Oro, and that they had many others of less consequence. He asked me if I had a god? If he had a son? And who was his wife? I told them he had a son but no wife.

Mutterings Heard Among Members of Crew

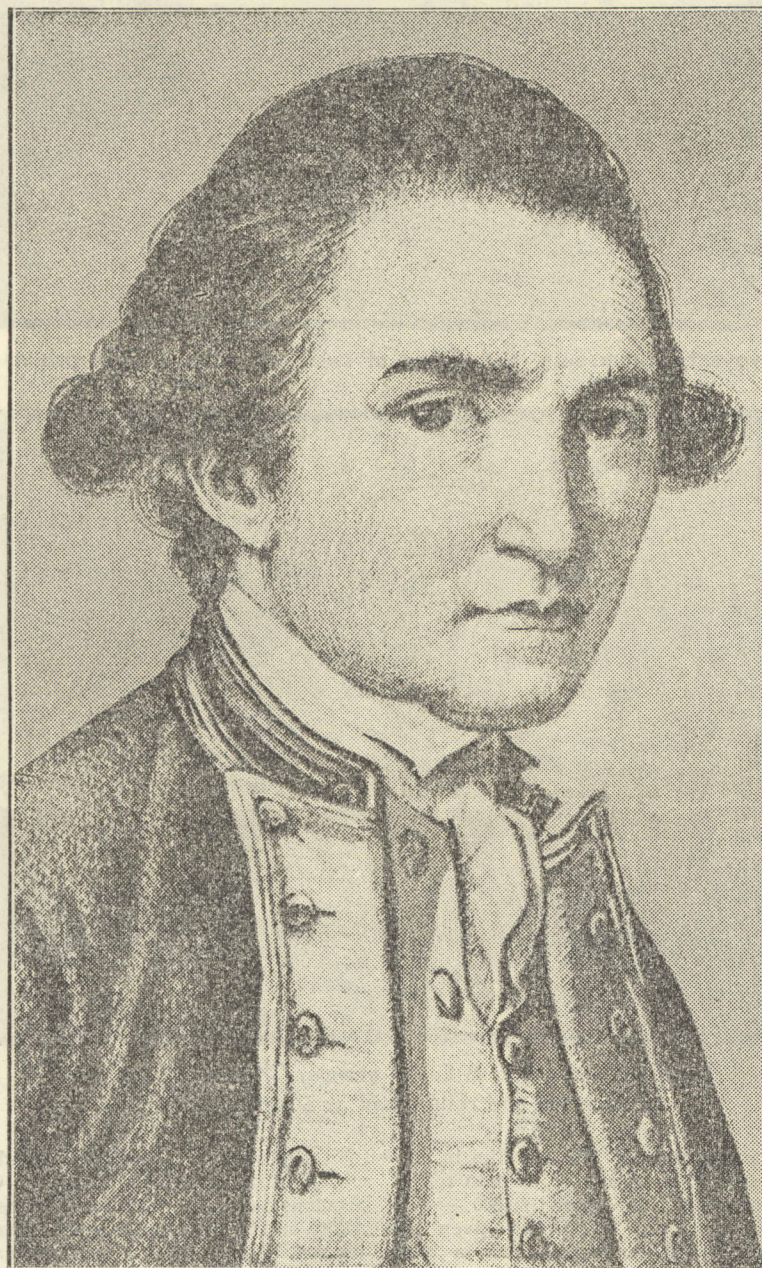
to keep the ship clear of vermin, on account of the plants. By the help of traps and good cats we were freed from rats and mice. When I was at Otaheite with Captain Cook there were great numbers of rats about all the houses.

CHAPTER VIII.

VERY different picture of the feeling of the Bounty's men and of the evident motives for mutiny was recorded by Boatswain's Mate Morrison, later to be pardoned by King George from the charge of mutinous behavior. Wrote Morrison in his diary: "The object of our visit to the Society Islands being at length accomplished, we weighed on the 4th April 1789.

"Feb. 11.—A small party of heiva people . . . had the civility to send me word that if I chose they would stay to perform a short heiva before me; and I immediately attended. It began by a dance of two young girls, to the music of drums and flutes, which lasted no long time; at the conclusion they suddenly dropped all their dress, which was left as a present for me. . . . After this the men danced; their performance was more indecent than any I had before seen, but was not the less applauded on that account by the natives, who seemed much delighted."

"Feb. 15.—I was present this afternoon at a wrestling match by women. The manner of challenging and method of attack was exactly the same as among the men. The only difference that I could observe was not in favour of the softer sex; for in these contests they showed less temper and more animosity than I could have imagined them capable of. The women, I was told, not only wrestle with each other but sometimes with the men. . . . Iddeah [the chief's wife] is said to be very famous at this exercise. . . . Iddeah is a very resolute woman, of a large make, and has great bodily strength."



Sketch of the famous explorer, Captain James Cook, mentioned in Captain Bligh's diary.

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"On March 7, when a native Tahitian whom Franchot Tone put in Irons to regret the bilboa-bolt lock and escape, Bligh wrote in his unpublished diary: "I had given a written order that the mate of the watch was to be answerable for the prisoners, and to visit and see that they were safe in his watch, but I have such a neglectful set about me that verbal orders in the course of a month were so forgotten that they would impudently assert no such thing or directions were given, and I have been at last under the necessity to trouble myself with writing what by decent young officers would be complied with as the common rules of the service."



Charles Laughton (Captain Bligh) and Clark Gable (Fletcher Christian) in the M-G-M moving picture "Mutiny on the Bounty."

This is the second instalment of "The True Story of the Bounty." The next will appear in next Sunday's Tribune.