## 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. Beaten back from Cape Horn by storms, Bligh makes for the Cape of Good Hope, and, sailing on into the east, Tahiti is sighted on Oct. 25, 1788. This great story of the sea has been compiled from

> By GUY MURCHIE JR. INSTALMENT II.

CHAPTER V.

IEUTENANT WILLIAM BLIGH 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. He was approaching the island of Tahiti, a place scarcely known to the civilized world but which he himself had visited back in 1777 when serving under his friend Captain James Cook, the famed explorer.

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 clotted drift that drives in a northern breeze, Her sides were clogged with the

lazy weed that spawns in the

And the iron-hearted commander wrote in his journal on this 26th of October, 1788:

"At four o'clock in the morning, having run twenty-five leagues from Maitea, we brought to till daylight, when we saw Point Venus bearing S.W. by W., distant about four leagues. As we drew near a great number of canoes came off to us. Their first enquiries were if we were tyos, which signifies friends; and whether we came from Pretanie (their pronunciation of Britain), or from Lima (Peru); they were no sooner satisfied in this than they crouded on board in vast numbers, notwithstanding our endeavours to prevent it, as we were working the ship in; and in less than ten minutes the deck was so full that I could scarce find my own people. . . . "

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. Some of them, naked from the waist up, displayed the arms and torsos of veritab giants; others, instead of turbans, wore on their heads the little bonnets of freshly plaited coconut leaves they call taumata. Their countenances, like those of children, mirrored every passing mood."

"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 folds, and cloaks of the same material to protect their shoulders from the sun, draped to leave the right arm free, and not unlike the toga of the Romans. Their faces were expressive of good nature, kindness, and mirth, and it was easy to perceive why so many of our seamen in former times had formed attachments among girls who seemed to have all

the amiable qualities of their sex." "The ship being anchored," continues Captain Bligh's journal, "our number of visitors continued to increase; but as yet we saw no person that we could recollect to have been of much consequence [in 1777]. Some inferior chiefs made me presents of a few hogs, and I made them presents in return. We were supplied with cocoa-nuts in great abundance, but bread-fruit was scarce.

"Many enquiries were made after Captain Cook, Sir Joseph Banks, and many of their former friends. They said a ship had been here, from which they had learnt that Captain Cook was dead; but the circumstances of his death they did not appear to be acquainted with; and I had given particular directions to my officers and ship's company that they should not be mentioned." (Cook had been killed by natives on the island of Hawaii in

"Otoo, who was the chief of Matavai 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. There appeared among the natives in general great good will toward us, and they seemed to be much rejoiced at our arrival. This whole day we experienced no instance of dishonesty. . . .

"The next forenoon a man came on board with Captain Cook's picture, which had been drawn by Mr. Webber in 1777 [see accompanying illustration] and left with Otoo. They called it Toote (which has always been their manner of pronouncing Captain Cook's name) Earee no Otaheite, chief of Otaheite. They said Toote had desired Otoo, whenever any English ship came, to show the picture, and it would be acknowledged as a token of friendship. The youngest brother of Otoo, named Whydooah, visited me this afternoon: he appeared stupefied with drinking ava. At sunset all our male visitors left the ship.

'The next morning early I received a message from Otoo to inform me of his arrival and requesting that I would send a boat for him, which I immediately did, with

an officer (Mr. Christian) to conduce him on board. He came with numerous attendants and expressed much satisfaction at our meeting.

. . I was surprised to find that instead of Otoo, the name by which he formerly went, he was now called Tinah. Tinah (Otoo) is a very large man, being not less than six feet four inches in height and proportionately stout; his age about thirtyfive. His wife (Iddeah) I judge to be about thirty-four years of age; she is likewise much above the common size of the women at Otaheite and has a very animated and intelligent countenance."

According to Captain Cook: "The quantity of food which these people eat at a meal is prodigious. I have seen one man devour two or three fishes as big as a perch, three breadfruits, each bigger than two fists; fourteen or fifteen plantains or bananas, each of them six or seven inches long and four or five 'round, and near a quart of the pounded bread-fruit, which is as substantial

as the thickest unbaked custard." "I took my visitors [Tinah and Iddeah] into the cabin," continued Bligh in his journal, "and after a short time produced my presents in return [for theirs]. The present I made to Tinah consisted of hatchets, small adzes, files, gimblets, saws, looking-glasses, red feathers, and two shirts. To Iddeah I gave earrings, necklaces, and beads; but she expressed a desire also for iron, and therefore I made the same assortment for her as I had for her hus-

"Much conversation took place among them on the value of the different articles, and they appeared extremely satisfied: so that they determined to spend the day with me, and requested I would shew them all over the ship, and particularly the cabin where I slept. This, though I was not fond of doing, I indulged them in; and the consequence was, as I had apprehended, that they took a fancy to so many things that they got from me nearly as much more as I had before given them. Afterwards Tinah desired me to fire some of the great guns; this I likewise complied with, and, as the shot fell into the sea at a great tance, all the natives expressed their surprise by loud shouts and acclamations. . .

"An intimacy between the natives and our people was already so general that there was scarce a man in the ship who had not his tyo, or friend. Tinah continued with me the whole afternoon, in the course of which he eat four times of roast pork, beside his dinner.

"I had sent Nelson [botanist] and his assistant to look for plants, and it was no small pleasure to me to find by their report that, according to appearances, the object of my mission would probably be accomplished with ease. . . . "

CHAPTER VI.

OUT despite the expedition's good fortune in respect to breadfuit, the seeds of mutiny were being sown in fatal quantities. Ashore, the seaweary 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. Aboard the Bounty, however, the fruits, suckling pigs, and other special gifts presented to them by their native friends were unmercifully confiscated by Captain Bligh's orders and turned over to his clerk to be used along with the general

According to the diary kept by Boatswain's Mate Morrison, even the officers' privately acquired hogs and breadfruit were taken by the captain's clerk. When the master, Mr. Fryer, remonstrated with Bligh on the subject, the strong-headed captain (according to Morrison) replied that "he would convince him that everything became his as soon as it was brought on board; that he would take nine-tenths of every man's property, and let him see who dared to say anything to the con-

Bligh, of course, made no record of this interview, if it existed. His journal continues:

"In the morning I returned Tinah's visit, for I found he expected it. . . I made Tinah understand that my visit was particularly to him, and gave him a second present, equal to the first, which he received with great pleasure; and to the people of consequence that were about him I also presented some article or other. There were great numbers of children; and as I took notice of the little ones that were in arms and gave them beads, both small and great, but with much drollery and good-humour, endeavoured to benefit by the occasion.

"Tinah, understanding from my conversation that I intended visiting some of the other islands in this neighbourhood, very earnestly desired I would not think of leaving Matavai.

"'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."

have everything stolen from you.' "I replied that, on account of er?' was the next question. their good-will, and from a desire to serve him and his country, King George had sent out those valuable presents to him; 'and will not you, Tinah, send something to King George in return?'

"'Yes,' he said, 'I will send him anything I have'; and then began to enumerate the different articles in his power, among which he mentioned the bread-fruit. This was the exact point to which I wished to bring the conversation; and, seizing an opportunity which had every appearance of being undesigned and accidental, I told him the breadfruit trees were what King George would like; upon which he promised me a great many should be put on board, and seemed much delighted to find it so easily in his power to send anything that would be well received by King George."

Following this diplomatic triumph, a rare feat for a man of Bligh's violence of feeling and expression, the Bounty's gardeners, David Nelson and William Brown, began the work openly collecting breadfruit plants. This work was successfully completed less than two months later, when on Dec. 24 (a year and a day after the Bounty sailed from Snithead) "we took the plants on board, being 774 pots, all in a healthy state; for whenever any plant had an unfavourable appearance it was replaced by another." His journal continues:

November 3.—This afternan the gudgeon of the rudder belonging to the large cutter was drawn out and stolen without being perceived by the man that was stationed to take care of her. Several petty thefts having been committed by the natives, mostly owing to the negligence of our own people; and as these kind of accidents generally created alarm and had a tendency to interrupt the good terms on which we were with the chiefs, I thought it would have a good effect to punish the boatkeeper in their presence, many of them happening to be then on board; and accordingly I ordered him a dozen lashes. Tinah, with several of the chiefs, attended the punishment, and interceded very earnestly to get it mitigated; the women showed great sympathy and that degree of feeling which characterises the amiable part of their sex."

"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 taowah, 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.

"'Who was his father and moth-"I said, 'He never had father or

"At this they laughed exceedingly.
"'You have a god, then, who never had a father or mother and

has a child without a wife!' 'Many other questions were asked, which my little knowledge of the language did not enable me to

"This forenoon [Dec. 14] we performed divine service. Many of the principal natives attended, and behaved with great decency. Some of the women at one time betrayed an inclination to laugh at our general responses, but on my looking at them they appeared much ashamed." Captain Bligh does not describe his look on this occasion, but it is easily imagined.

That Bligh had a heart can scarce be doubted after reading the following paragraph from his journal on

"When I went on shore I found Otow, Oberree-roah, Moannah, and several others in great tribulation at the thoughts that we were so soon to leave them. . . . tion 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."

But no sooner was Bligh's heart softened by kindness than it was rehardened by a new instance of insubordination of some sort. "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. They had taken with them eight stand of arms and ammunition: but what their plan was, or which way they had gone, no one on board seemed to have the least knowledge. I went on shore to the chiefs, and soon received information that the boat was at Matavai and that the deserters had departed in a sailing canoe for the island Tethuroa. . . .

"I was determined not to leave Otaheite without them. . . . I landed on Tethuroa at some distance from the place where the deserters were. . . Oedidee [a Tahitian] and I walked along the and windy, and, the shore being rocky, I soon lost sight of the boat. A few of the [Tethuroa] natives had joined us in our walk, and from wet." their manner I had reason to suspect them of a design to close upon cerning this desertion, and contained



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

us, with an intention, no doubt, to plunder; I was provided with pocket pistols, and on producing one they left us. Oedidee was so much alarmed that I could scarce prevail on him to proceed. .

"The deserters, I was informed, were in a house close to us, and I imagined there would be no great difficulty in securing them, with the assistance of the natives. They had, however, heard of mv arrival, and when I was near the house they came out without their arms and delivered themselves up."

Bligh later learned that "at the beach. The night was very dark time they delivered themselves up to me it was not in their power to have made resistance, their ammunition having been spoiled by the

Another recording of Bligh's con-

in the part of his original diary which he omitted from his published journal, reads: "Had the mate of the watch been

awake no trouble of this kind would have happened. I have therefore disrated and turned him before the mast; such neglectful and worthless petty officers, I believe, never were in a ship as are in this. No orders for a few hours together are obeyed by them, and their conduct in general is so bad that no confidence or trust can be reposed in them; in short, they have driven me to everything but corporal punishment, and that must follow if they do not improve."

Bligh probably was in a temper as a populous country, a number of he wrote the words. Nevertheless. according to Morrison's journal, the "corporal punishment" was not long delayed, for on that very day a midshipman was put in irons and confined from Jan. 5 to March 23-

CHAPTER VII.

eleven weeks!

N JAN. 17, when the sails stored in the sail room were found to be mildewed and rotten in many places, Bligh observes in his unpublished journal: "If I had any officers to supersede the master and boatswain, or was capable of doing without them, considering them as common seamen, they should no longer occupy their respective stations; scarcely any neglect of duty can equal the criminality of this."

Bligh's published journal con-

"Jan. 30.-This afternoon I punished one of the seamen, Isaac Martin, with nineteen lashes for striking an Indian. This was a transgression of so serious a nature and such a direct violation of my orders that I would on no account be prevailed on to forgive it, though great intercession was made by some of the chiefs. . .

"Jan. 31.—This morning I ordered all the chests to be taken on shore and the inside of the ship to be washed with boiling water to kill the cockroaches. We were constantly obliged to be at great pains

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

Mutterings Heard Among

Members of Crew

was at Otaheite with Captain Cook there were great numbers of rats about all the houses. . . "I saw two instances of jealousy today, one of which had nearly pro-

duced fatal consequences. A man was detected with a married woman by the husband, who stabbed him in the belly with a knife; fortunately the intestines excaped and the wound did not prove dangerous. The other instance was a girl, who had constantly lived with my coxswain, beating another girl that she discovered to have been too intimate with him. "Feb. 6.-At daylight we discovered that the cable by which the

ship rode had been cut near the water's edge in such a manner that only one strand remained whole. While we were securing the ship Tinah came on board. I could not but believe he was perfectly innocent of the transaction; nevertheless I spoke to him in a very peremptory manner and insisted upon his discovering and bringing to me the offender. . . . The anger which I expressed, however, created so much alarm that old Otow and his wife [the father and mother of Tinah] immediately quitted Oparre and retired to the mountains in the midst of heavy rain, as did Teppa-

with me on the unreasonableness of my anger against them. . . "It has since occurred to me that this attempt to cut the ship adrift was most probably the act of some of our own people, whose purpose of remaining at Otaheite might have been effectually answered without danger if the ship had been driven

hoo and his family. Tinah and

Iddeah remained and expostulated

on shore. "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. 16.-I was present this aft-

ternoon 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 shewed 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."

In discussing the practice of infanticide, which he found common in Tahiti, Captain Bligh reveals his sincere concern for the future of this people with a constructive suggestion for their betterment. He

"An idea here presents itself which, however fanciful it may appear at first sight, seems to merit some attention: While we see among these islands so great a waste of the human species that numbers are born only to die, and at the same time a large continent so near to them as New Holland [Australia], in which there is so great a waste of land uncultivated and almost destitute of inhabitants. it naturally occurs how greatly the two countries might be made to benefit each other and gives occasion to regret that the islanders are not instructed in the means of emigrating to New Holland. . . . Such a plan of emigration, if rendered practicable to them, might not only be the means of abolishing the horrid custom of destroying children

. . . but . . . a great continent would be converted from a desert to our fellow creatures would be saved, the inhabitants of the islands would become more civilized, and it is not improbable but that our colonies in New Holland would derive so much benefit as to more than repay any trouble . . . incurred in endeavouring to promote so humane a

On March 7, when a native Tahitian whom Bligh had put in irons managed to break 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.'

This lack of harmony in the Bounty's company continued, and at last on April 4, 1789, Captain Bligh gave sailing orders. In his published journal he wrote:

"After dinner I ordered the presents which I had reserved for Tinah and his wife to be put in one of the ship's boats. . . They took a most affectionate leave of me and

expressions at arting was, 'Yourah' no t'Eatue tee eveerah.' 'May the Etue protect yer forever and ever."

"At sunset . . . we made sail, bidding farewel to Otaheite, where for twenty-three weeks we had been treated with tle utmost affection and regard, anl which seemed to increase in proportion to our stay. That we were not insensible to their kindness the events which followed more than sufficently prove; for to the friendly and indearing behaviour of these people pay be ascribed the motives for that event which effected the ruin of an expedition that there was ever reason to hope would have beer completed in the most fortunate nanner."

CHAPTER VIII.

VERY different picture of the feeling of the Bounty's I 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 nutinous behavior. Wrote Morrison n his diary: 'The object of our visit to the So-

ciety Islands being at length accomplished, we weghed on the 4th April, 1789. Eteryone seemed in high spirits and began to talk of home as though they had just left Jamaica instead of Otaheite, so far onward did the flattering fancies waft them. [Tle Bounty was sailing for England by way of Jamaica and the West Indies, where it was planned to leave the breadfruit trees for transplanting.] On the 23d we anchord off Annamooka, the inhabitants of which island were very rude and attempted to take the casks and axes from the parties sent to fill water and cut wood. A musket pointed at them produced no other effect than a return of the compliment by poising their clubs or spears with menacing looks, and, as it was Liettenant Bligh's orders that no person should affront them on any occasion, they were emboldened by meeting with no check to their insolence. They at length became so troulesome that Mr. Christian, who commanded the watering party, foundit difficult to carry on his duty; bu on acquainting Lieutenant Bligh with their behaviour he received volley of abuse, was damned as cowardly rascal and asked if he were afraid of naked savages whilt he had weapons in his hand. 'D this he replied in a respectful minner, 'The arms are of no effect, sir, while your orders prohibit their use."

This occurrence, which took place just five day before the mutiny, was alluded to in Bligh's diary (one of the many pirts which he omitted from the published version). Summing up, said Bligh: "The men cleared themsives, and they therefore merit no punishment. As to the officers I lave no resource, nor do I ever feel ayself safe in the few,

instances I trut to them." According toSir John Barrow, "a perusal of all the documents certainly leads to the conclusion that all Bligh's officers were of a very inferior descripion." Perhaps this impression is heghtened by the fact that the officer were lenient with the crew in an attempt to offset Bligh's severity. Even Bligh himself said of Christian and of Midshipman Peter Heywood, They really promised as professional men to be a credit to their country." They were

men "of abilitie." According to Morrison: "In the afternoon of the 27th [the day before the mutiny Lieutenant Bligh came upon deck, and, missing some of the cocoa-nuts which had been piled up between the guns, said they had been stolen and could not have been taken away without the knowledge of the officers, all of whom were sent for and questioned on the subject. On their declaring that they had not seen any of the people touch them he exclaimed, 'Then you must have taken them yourselves, and proceeded to inquire of them separately how many they had pur-

gentleman answered, 'I do not know, sir, but I hope you do not think me so mean as to be guilty of stealing yours.' Mr. Bligh replied: 'Yes, you damned hound, I do. You must have stolen them from me, or you would be able to give a better account of them. Then, turning to the other officers, he said: 'God damn you, you scoundrels, you are all thieves alike and combine with the men to rob me; I suppose you will steal my yams next; but I'll sweat you for it, you rascals. I'll make half of you jump overboard before you get through Endeavour straits.' This threat was followed by an order to the clerk to 'stop the villains' grog and give them but half a pound of yams tomorrow. If they steal them I'll reduce them to a quarter."

"On coming to Mr. Christian that

Thus the doomed ship sailed on to the westward across the little known and lonely Pacific. On the eve of the mutiny the sky was clear. The breeze had been light all day and remained so; we had no more than steerage way; but the air was refreshingly cool. The moon was in its first quarter, and by its light we could dimly see the island of

Christian's watch began at 4 a. m. Nearly every soul on board was asleep. The Bounty glided westward with only the faintest rhythmic creak aloft and only the gentlest slap and gurgle of waves below. All was repose-except the heart of Fletcher Christian.

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



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