

A subsidiary land-work of construction and repair employed 2,000,000 workers who built warships and mercantile vessels without stint of time or strength or labour. The Navy had auxiliary craft of tiny size but great value manned by 50,000 volunteers which aided in every kind of coast work, life saving at sea, submarine detection, general watchfulness and frequent fighting with the under-sea foe; it made Sea Scouts of British boys who, in thousands, took up similar lines of work and did gallant service in paths of varied adventure and useful effort. Its Royal Naval Air Service performed a work of the same silent, valuable character as that of the Navy itself—dropping bombs on Ostend and Zeebruggé, following and fighting German raiders or submarines, helping Italian efforts, dropping bombs on the Turks at Gaza or at Constantinople, "spotting" the enemy on sea and coast. The Navy as a whole prevented 2,000,000 enemy subjects of military age from crossing the seas to join the forces of Germany or its Allies. Let the work's of King George V., in addressing his victorious Parliament and people and Empire on Nov. 19th, 1919, in words representing his Ministers and the nation, conclude this brief record:—

After a struggle longer and far more terrible than anyone could have foretold the soil of Great Britain remains inviolate. Our Navy has everywhere held the seas, and wherever the enemy could be brought to battle, it has renewed the glories of Drake and Nelson. The incessant work it has accomplished in overcoming the hidden menace of the enemy's submarines and in guarding the ships that have brought food and munitions to our shore has been less conspicuous but equally essential to success.

Without that work Britain might have starved and those gallant soldiers of America who have so much contributed to our victory could not have found their way hither. The Fleet has enabled us to win the War. In fact, without the Fleet, the struggle could not have been maintained, for upon the command of the sea, the very existence and maintenance of our land forces have from the first depended.

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