BRITAIN'S NAVY AT WAR

BATTLESHIPS WERE READY WHEN WORD WAS FLASHED

Jellicoe Assumed Command of Navy, While Kitchener Became Supreme in Army-Goeben Escaped From Net Spread by Ships in Mediterranean.

By WINSTON CHURCHILL. WAR-GENERAL MOBILIZA-TION OF THE NAVY.

At the cabinet on Saturday, Aug.

1, I demanded the immediate calling out of the fleet reserves and the completion of our naval preparations.

I based this claim on the fact that the German navy was mobilizing and that we must do the same. The cabinet, who were by no means ill-ined on matters of naval organization, took the view after a sharp liscussion that this step was not necessary to our safety, as mobiliza-tion only affected the oldest ships in the fleet, and that our main naval power was already in full preparedness for war and the fleet in its war station. I replied that though this was true we needed the third fleet ships, particularly the older cruisers to fulfil the roles assigned to them in our war plan. However, I did not succeed in procuring their assent.

On Saturday evening I dined alone at the admiralty. The foreign telerams came in at short intervals in red boxes, which already bore the oting the precautionary period. The ow was quite continuous and the produced on my mind after eading for nearly an hour was that there was still a chance of peace. I wondered whether armies and fleets could remain mobilized for a space without fighting and then demobil-

I had hardly achieved this thought then another foreign office box ame in. I opened it and read, "Germany has declared war on Russia." There was no more to be said. I walked across the Horse Guards Parade and entered 10 Downing Street by the garden gate. I found the prime minister upstairs in his drawing-room; with him were Lord Haldane, Sir Edward Grey, and Lord Crewe; there may have been other ministers. I said that I intended in the said the said. I said that I intended in the said the said. I said that I intended in the said the said. I said that I intended in the said the said. I said that I intended in the said th nisters. I said that I intended in-ntly to mobilize the fleet notstanding the cabinet decision, and that I would take full personal nsibility to the cabinet the next rning. This action was ratified by the cabinet on Sunday morning, and the royal proclamation was is-

Jellicoe Succeeds. Another decision and a painful one was required. Sir George Callaghan's command of the home fleets had been extended for a year, and was now due to end on October 1. It had been announced that he would shen be succeeded by Sir John Jellicoe. Further, our arrangements prescribed that Sir John Jellicoe should act as second-in-command in the event of war. The first sea lord and I had a conference with Sir George Callaghan's and his way through London to the north on the 36th. As the result of this conference we decided that if war came it would be necessary to appoint Sir John Jellicoe immediate by the conference with sealed to the immense strain that would be necessary to early the command. We were doubtful as to Sir George Callaghan's leading to the chief command to the speed of your squadrons is sufficient by to the chief command to the health and physical strength being equal to the immense strain that would be cast upon him and in the crash of Europe it was no time to consider individuals. Sir John Jellicoe left London for the fiet with the French admiral. This permission consult with sealed instructions, at the purpose of which he was quite unaware, directing him on the seals being broken to the seals being broken announced that he would then be succeeded by Sir John Jellicoe. Further, our arrangements prescribed particularly Goeben, which may interfered by the succeeded by Sir John Jellicoe should not set

ruel blow to Sir George Callaghan many.

Early on the morning of Aug. 4 we to have to lay down his charge at such a moment, and his protests were e-echoed by practically all the prin-ipal admirals who had served under im and by Sir John Jellicoe himself It was also a grave matter to make change in the command of the eets at this juncture. However, we did what we thought right, and that without an hour's delay. Sir John Jellicoe assumed command on the evening of August 3, and received alnost immediately an order from the admiralty to proceed to sea at daycabinet sat almost continu-

The cabinet sat almost continuously throughout the Sunday, and up till luncheon time it looked as if the majority would resign. Meanwhile, however, events were influencing opinion hour by hour. When we met in the morning we were in the presence of the violation of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg by the German troops. In the afternoon the

should uphold the sanctity of the treaty regarding the neutrality of Belgium. This last was decisive. When the cabinet separated on At the cabinet on Saturday, Aug.

1, I demanded the immediate calling out of the fleet reserves and the completion of our naval preparations. I based this claim on the fact that the German navy was mobilizing and that we must do the same. The cabclare war on Germany, still less to send an army to France. Thes supreme decisions were never taken at any cabinet. They were compelled by the force of events. We repaired to the House of Commons to hear the statement of the foreign secre-

Goeben's Task.

Meanwhile in the Mediterranean a frama of intense interest and, as it altimately proved, of fateful con-The event which would dominate all others if war broke out was the main shock of battle between the French and German armies. I knew that the French were counting on placing in the line a whole army corps of their best troops from North Africa, and that every man was needed. I knew also that they intended to transport these troops across the to transport these troops across the Mediterranean as fast as ships could be loaded under the general protec-tion of the French freet, but without any individual escort or system of convoys. The French general staff calculated that whatever happened most of the troops would get across. The French fleet disposed between this stream of transports and the Austrian fleet afforded a good guarantee. But there was one ship in seemed that the Goeben, being tree to choose any point on a front of three or four hundred miles, would easily be able to avoid the French secret well. As the shadows of night fell over the Mediterranean the Goeben, being tree to thousand the secret well.

which he was quite unaware, directing him on the seals being broken to fake over the command. On the night of August 2, when we considered war certain, we telegraphed to both admirals apprising them of the admirals ap It was naturally a come ally of France against Ger-

ports.
(This to await early confirmation.)
The cabinet, however, adhered formally to the view that no act of war should be committed by us before the expiration of the ultimatum. The



had attacked transports, the decision of the British cabinet would have prevented our battle cruisers from interfering. This decision obviously interfering. This decision opviously carried with it the still more imperative veto against opening fire on the Goeben if she did not attack the Goeben if she did not attack French transports during the hours when we had her in our power. I cannot impeach the decision. It is right that the world should know it. But little did we imagine how much that act of honorable restraint was to cost us and all the world.

So during this long summer after-So during this long summer after-noon these three great ships, hunt-ed and hunters, were cleaving the clear waters of the Mediterranean in tense and oppressive selections.

the tortures of Tantalus.

At about 5 o'clock Prince Louis observed that sunset in the Mediter-ranean at that date was not till 9 o'clock. There was, therefore, still time to sink the Goeben before dark. In the face of the cabinet decision I was unable to utter a word. Nothing less than the vital safety of Great Britain could have justified so complete an over-riding of the authority of the cabinet. We hoped to sink her the next day. Where could she go? Pola seemed her only refuge throughout the Mediterranean. According to international law nothing but internment awaited her elsewhere. The Turks had kept their

easily be able to avoid the French battle squadron and, brushing aside or outstripping their cruisers, break in upon the transports and sink one after another of these vessels crammed with soldiers. It occurred to me at this time that perhaps that was the task she had been sent to the Mediterranean to perform.

On July 30 I had, with the concurrence of the first sea lord, sent a telegram to Sir Berkelly Milne, from which the following is an extract:

To aid the French in the transportation of their African army by covaging their cruisers will. As the shadows of night fell over the Mediterranean the Goeben increased her speed to twenty-stem. She increased her speed still further. We have since learned that she was capable for a very short time of an exceptional speed, rising even to twenty-six or twenty-seven knots. Aided by this, she shook off her unwhich the following is an extract:

To aid the French in the transportation of their African army by covaging their cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to twenty-that our two battle cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to twenty-that our two battle cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to twenty-that our two battle cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to twenty-that our two battle cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to twenty-that our two battle cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to twenty-that our two battle cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to twenty-that our two battle cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to twenty-sive that our two battle cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to twenty-sive that our two battle cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to twenty-sive that our two battle cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to twenty-sive that our two battle cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to twenty-sive that our two battle cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to twenty-sive that our two battle cruisers could steam. She increased her speed to t a wireless message could at that hour

tant and the world seemed very still.
One could only wait; but for what a
result! Although the special duties
of my office made it imperative that
I, of all others, should be vigilant and Great Britain should decide to become ally of France against Germany.

Early on the morning of Aug. 4 we were delighted by the following news from the commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, to the admiralty:

Indomitable, Indefatigable shadowing Goeben and Breslau 37.44 north New Yery good. Hold her. War imminent.

Goeben is to be prevented by force from interfering with French transports.

(This to await early confirmation.) The cabinet, however, adhered formally to the view that no act of war should be committed by us before mally to the view that no act of war should be committed by us before the expiration of the ultimatum. The moral integrity of the British Empire must not be compromised at this awful juncture for the sake of sinking a single ship.

Withheld Attack.

had not willed it. Germany it seemed, had rushed to her own undoing. And if this were what she had meant all along, if this was the danger which had really menaced us hour by hour during the last five years, and would have hung over us hour by hour until the crash eventually came, was it not better that it we met in the morning we were in the presence of the violation of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg by the German troops. In the afternoon the violation of the Belgian frontier had taken place. In the evening arrived the appeal of the king of the Belgians that the guaranteeing powers that the guaranteeing powers when sighted by the Indomitable and Indefatigable. Even if, however, she was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and it is should happen now—now that she wrong, now that the wrong now that the wrong now that the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and give the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and it is should happen now—now that the wrong now that the sightly came, was it not better that it take the decision and take the decision and it is the wrong now that the wrong now that t

the co-operation of the two fleets in the channel and in the Mediter-In the channel and in the Mediterranean. They were fine figures in
uniform, and very grave. One felt
in actual contact with these French
officers how truly the crisis was life
or death for France. They spoke of
basing the French fleet on Malta
—that same Malta for which we had
fought Napoleon for so many years,
which was indeed the very pretext
of the renewela of the war in 1803.
Little did the Napoleon of St. Helena
dream that in her most desperate dream that in her most desperate need France would have at her disposal the great Mediterranean base which his strategic instinct had deemed vital. I said to the admirals: "Use Malta as if it were Toulon."

The minutes passed slowly.

Word Is Flashed.

It was 11 o'clock at night-12 by German time—when the ultimatum expired. The war telegram, which meant "Commence hostilities against Germany," was flashed to the ships and establishments under the white

I walked across the Horse Guards' parade to the cabinet room and reported to the prime minister and the ministers who were assembled there that the deed was done.

that the deed was done.

When I next went to the cabinet after the declaration of war, I found myself with new companions. During the previous seven years Lord Morley had always sat on the left of the prime minister, and I had always sat next to Lord Morley. Many a wise and witty admonition had I received penciled in scholarly phrase from my veteran neighbor and many a charming courtesy such as he excelled in had graced the tollsome path of business. He had said to me path of business. He had said to me on the Sunday of Resolve: "If it has on the Sunday of Resolve: "If it has to be, I am not the man to do it. I should only hamper those like you who have to bear the burden." Now he was gone. In his place sat Lord Kitchener. On his left also there was a fresh figure—the new minister of agriculture — Lord Lucas. I had known him since South African was when he lost his leg; and to





JELLICOE GIVEN COMMAND OF THE FLEET; THE GOEBEN ESCAPES. Top left: Lord Jellicoe, who assumed command of the fleet on the evening of August 3, 1914. Top right: The German cruiser Goeben, which was shadowed all day on August 4 by British warships. Bottom, left to right: Lord Kitchener, who took a seat at the cabinet table as soon as war was declared; Admiral Sir George Callaghan, clear waters of the Mediterranean in tense and oppressive calm. At any moment the Goeben could have been smitten by sixfeen 12-inch guns firing nearly treble her own weight of metal. At the admiralty we suffered know him was to delight in him. His tertures of Tantalus. ed by Jellicoe because it was feared his health would not be equal to the strain of war; Lord Morley, who resigned from the cabinet when war was declared.

Reduced

open, gay, responsive nature, his witty, ironical, but never unchival-rous tongue, his pleasing presence, his compulsive smile, made him much courted by his friends, of whom I was courted by his friends, of whom I was one. Young for the cabinet, heir to splendid possessions, happy in all that surrounded him, he seemed to have captivated fortune with the

Both these two men were marked for death at the hands of the enemy, the young minister grappling with his adversary in the high air, the his adversary in the high air, the old field marshal choking in the icy sea. I wonder what the twenty politicians round the table would have felt if they had been told that the prosaic British cabinet was itself to be decimated in the war they had just declared. I think they would have felt a sense of pride and of relief in sharing to some extent the perils to which they were to send their countrymen, their friends, their

Convenes War Council.

On the afternoon of August 5 the prime minister convened an extra-ordinary council of war at Downing street. I do not remember any gathorganized, was the scheme upon which, aided by Field Marshals Nich-

were all in the line together?
The first sea lord and the chief of the staff came in with French admirals, who had hurried over to concert in detail arrangements for the co-operation of the two fleets suard against invasion and that so guard against invasion, and that so far as the admiralty was concerned, not four, but the whole six divisions

Discussion then turned upon the place to which they should be despatched. Lord Roberts inquired whether it was not possible to base the British army at Antwerp so as to strike, in conjunction with the Bel-

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mew minister ucas. I had to leg; and to Co. Limited. Toronto. Ont.—Advt.

were not able, from an admiralty point of view, to guarantee the sea communications of so large a force on the enemy side of the Straits of Dover, but only inside the Anglo-French flotilla cordon which had already taken up its station. Moreover, no plans had been worked out by the war office for such a contingency. They had concentrated all their thought upon integral co-opera-

by the war office for such a contingency. They had concentrated all their thought upon integral co-operation with the French left wherever it might be. It was that or nothing.

Another discussion took place upon how far forward the British expeditionary force should be concentrated. Some high authorities were for concentrating it around Amiens for intervention after the first shock of battle had been taken. Both Lord Kitchener and Sir Douglas Haig seemed inclined to this view. But in the end Sir John French and the forward school had their way, and it was felt that we must help France in the way the French staff thought would be most effective.

At this great council of war, Lord Kitchener and staff thought would be most effective.

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war office and the admiralty and requiring to be transacted between ministers. He therefore invited Lord Kitchener to undertake ministerial charge of the war office, and the field marshal, who had certainly not serial publication rights in London and district held by The London Advertiser.) sought this post in any way, had no choice but to accept.

Predicts Early War. Lord Kitchener now came forward to the cabinet, on almost the first

eccasion after he joined us, and in soldierly sentences proclaimed a series of inspiring and prophetic truths. Every one expected that the

gian armies, at the flank and rear war would be short; but wars took of the invading German hosts. We were not able, from an admiralty

would be most effective.

At this great council of war, Lord Kitchener had not yet become secretary of state for war, but I knew that his appointment was impending. The prime minister could not possibly be burdened with the continuous flow of inter-departmental work proceeding between the war office and the admiralty and requiring to be transacted between the continuous transacted between transacted between transacted between transacted transacted between transacted tr

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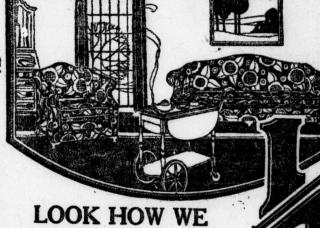
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