

left on "the Snake" to turn the vessel round and make for the open sea at full speed if he and his men were discovered.

Trevelyan took a wide detour and reached the stern of the first man-of-war on the left. One of his swimmers was already there. The lieutenant fastened the wire to the mine which his companion was keeping right alongside the side of the vessel's stern. He then ordered the sailor to keep the mine in position, while he went on with his raft to the ship which was lying thirty yards off on the right. Having fixed the wire on to the mine there, he would pull three times, when the sailor was to take a wide detour round the ship on the side farthest from Trevelyan, paying out as he did so a large coil of wire which the latter had given him. Above all he must keep the wire taut, so that the mine might keep its original position. When he had passed the warship he was to bear into the other side, when he would meet the sailor who had fixed the mine to the second ship. They were then to fasten the wires together and take one of them back to "the Snake," where it would be attached to an electric battery. Trevelyan swam to the second ship, fixed the wire on to the mine, and sent the sailor on to meet the swimmer from the first man-of-war. He waited till the signal, three pulls on the wire, showed that the two men had met. Then he went on to the third and fourth vessels, where the same process was repeated with this single exception. The two sailors met and fastened the wire to the middle of that which stretched between the first and second ships. Mines connected by wires were attached to the fifth and sixth vessels as in the case of the third and fourth men-of-war. Rain was still pouring in torrents, and the heavy mist hid the shore from view, while the surface of the water was as smooth as oil. Trevelyan had just fixed the wire on the mine at the stern of the sixth ship, and was waiting for the signal that the last two sailors had met, when a challenge rang out and a marine looked