

A British Fleet Sets Sail

Written for The Western Home Monthly by Patrick Vau:

NOTHING is more symbolical of the British Navy, that has kept the Home Isles from invasion, pent up the German navy inside its most amply mined home-waters, and safely conveyed many millions of troops to the various seats of the war, than sight of a squadron of its vessels setting sail. It demonstrates gigantic might handled with an ease and exactness that are mathematical in their certainty.

The Squadron that put into port yesterday to fill bunkers and ship stores, is about to weigh anchor and rejoin the Grand Fleet somewhere up in the North Sea. On board our battleship a small group of officers stand on the upper bridge that looks down sixty feet and more on the tide as it gurgles and splashes against her thick steel sides. The captain talks with his navigating lieutenant, and the commander close by, eyeing all things, his telescope, shuttered against the damp, swinging to and fro. Out on the very edge of the upper bridge is a small signal-midshipman, his cap jammed down on his head, for the breeze is gusty, and his telescope laid on the Flagship that lies over two miles away.

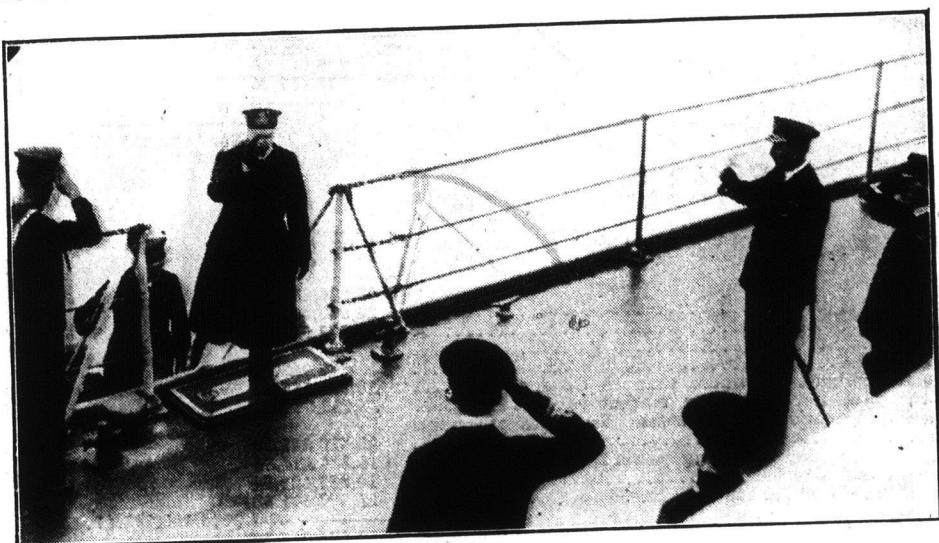
The Squadron itself is lying in lines of column ahead, forming a square, the Senior and Junior Flag Officers in their respective battleships in the van of the columns in-shore.

On the lower bridge of our battleship the officer of the watch is speaking with the first lieutenant for a moment or two

long "at the dip," whose signal-men falter ever so little in clipping the flying flags together, or whose wheel does not go over just exactly with the rest at his order "down," at which the vessels all turn, on its coming to him in a motion of the C.I.C.'s own hand. What the signal-boatswain in the Flagship does not record, the Admiral does not see; but, when he does take note, then the entire world of that fleet must see, for the "eyes" of each unit are glued to his distant bridge.

Already, however, the C.I.C.'s signal has fluttered down, but the next second another string of two-coloured flags goes up from her signal bridge. Again our signal-midshipman springs across the bridge to the captain, who has been glancing up at the bright pennant broken at his high yard arm to signify the cable has now been shortened in. "Weigh anchor, sir," he reports, and the commander takes his part, and a sharp order is jerked out by him. There is a shrilling of boatswain's pipes, and hoarse voices repeat the order from deck to deck below. As the last answering pennant in the fleet reaches its place, the Flagship's hoist spins down. "Weigh, sir," says the signal-midshipman to his C.O. And before very long all the anchors in the Fleet are up, and secured, each on its sloping bill-board, and the same pennant is flying, in acknowledgment of the accomplished order, at every lower yard-arm.

Again the Flagship's fore is covered with sudden bunting, and signal-logs are fiercely busy on each bridge. The answer-



The above British Naval Official picture is the first to arrive in this country of the German Admiral and his officers boarding H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth, Admiral Beatty's Flagship, to arrange the terms of surrender of the German High Seas Fleet. Admiral Meurer, of the German Navy is here seen stepping upon the deck of the battleship, after coming up the ships ladder. He was accompanied by a submarine and a Zeppelin commander who are following close behind, to arrange the terms of the surrender.

before the latter goes forward to the bows. On the small wooden grating at the wheel stands the helmsman, and, by the compass three feet away, the quarter-master, close to the bell-mouth of one of the large speaking tubes from the upper bridge. On either side are the bluejackets at the telegraphs, which transmit the orders to the engine-room deep below. Signalmen are busy. Some are rolling back the canvas covers in front of the flag lockers, and some are casting loose the innumerable halliards leading down from the single mast and yardarms above. The chief yeoman, with peaked cap and brass-buttoned coat that bears crossed signal flags on the collar, is intently gazing, telescope at his eye, where, clean to windward, across the ordered lines, there streams the Cross of St. George, red on white, betokening the Admiral.

Suddenly, just above the Flagship's bridge, three small dots break into colour, and the first-lieutenant scurries away, being responsible for weighing anchor. The flags stand on the wind stiff as boards, of which only the ends are visible. But already hawk eyes have read the bunting.

The signal-midshipman leaps across the upper bridge, "Shorten into two shackles, sir," he said, and the commanding officer nods. The chief yeoman has thrown a glance at the answering pennant already spinning up its halliard. The signal-midshipman, and he, and all his men, know full well there is an eagle vision on board the Flagship—that of the signal-boatswain, who is the very eye of the Admiral—and woe betides that vessel whole answering pennant remains too

ing pennants rise and fall on the wind almost as one. "To repeat the signal, sir," reports the signal-midshipman, taking the telescope from his eye as he reads the next far-away hoist, then going to the bridge-rail watches the signal staff below swift-handed and decisive clip together the flags of the "repeat" to whip them aloft. "Signal's down, sir," he cries as the hoist flutters down in a curve against the breeze.

"Half-ahead, starboard. Half-astern, port. Helm hard a-starboard. The C.O. voices the signalled order for units to turn together N.E. speaking into the lower bridge voice-tube. Each bluejacket as the case may be at the engineroom telegraphs, one on each side of the wheel, drives the levers over, repeating the order as he marks the tell-tale his side of the funnel casings begin its even grinding as its main engines get under way. The wheel is put over, and as the screws commence to revolve the huge vessel turns on her heel.

"Form divisions in line ahead to port, columns ten cables apart, sir," the signal-midshipman rattles off, telescope to his straining eye as the Flagship drapes herself afresh in bunting, "speed fifteen knots. Cruisers to take station six cables starboard beam of Flagship, sir." And already as the last great hoist comes down the inshore battleships are moving, the Flagship heading the columns for the open sea. In ten minutes the Fleet is steaming out toward the North Sea in exact formation—part of the world's mightiest phalanx of steam, steel, guns, and personnel.

RAW FURS

OUR ADVICE

Ship to us at once and Reap Benefits of High Prices now prevailing

PRICE LIST AND SHIPPING TAGS FREE

Pierce Fur Co. Ltd.

Richard M. Pierce, Manager

King and Alexander, WINNIPEG, Canada

We Also Buy HIDES and SENECA ROOT

FREE PRIZE PUZZLE
\$200.00

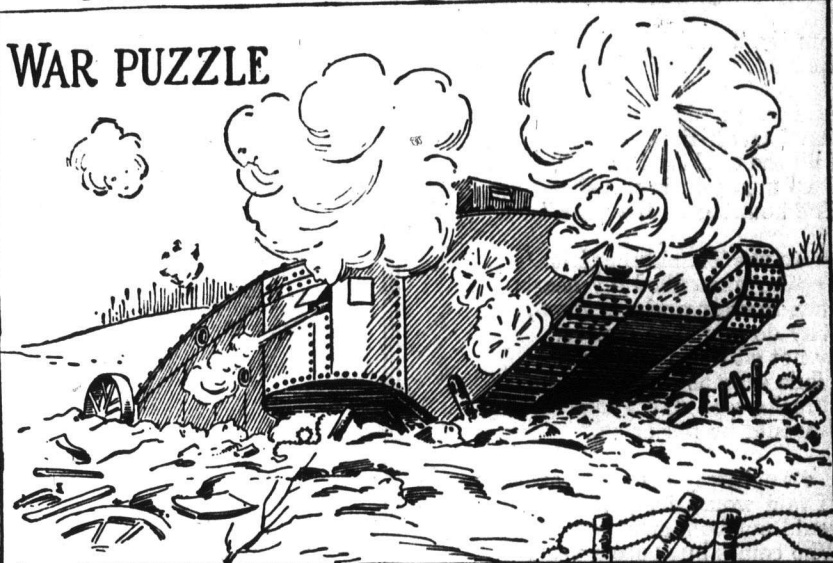
In Cash now to be Given Away FREE,
In addition to the sum of

\$4000.00 In Cash that we have previously Given Away.

1st Prize, \$50.00 in Cash. 2nd Prize, \$40.00 in Cash
3rd Prize, \$35.00 in Cash. 4th Prize, \$25.00 in Cash
5th to 9th Prizes—Each \$10.00 in Cash.

TOGETHER WITH MANY MERCHANDISE PRIZES

WAR PUZZLE



Above will be found the picture of a modern Tank of the kind that is being used with such success in the present war. At a glance the Tank appears to be all there is in the picture, but by careful scrutiny the faces of several soldiers will be found. There are 11 of them in all. Can you find them? It is no easy task but by patience and endurance can be accomplished.

You may win a cash prize by doing so. Many have done this as will be shown by the names and addresses which we will send you. If you find the faces mark each one with an X, cut out the picture and send it to us, together with a slip of paper on which you have written the words "I have found all the faces and marked them." Write these nine words plainly and neatly, as in case of ties, both writing and neatness are considered factors in this contest.

This may take up a little of your time but as TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS in cash and many merchandise prizes are given away, it is worth your time to take a little trouble over this matter. Remember all you have to do is to mark the faces, cut out the picture and write on a separate piece of paper the words, "I have found all the faces and marked them."

WE DO NOT ASK YOU TO SPEND ONE CENT OF YOUR MONEY IN ORDER TO ENTER THIS CONTEST

Send your answer at once; we will reply by Return Mail telling you whether your answer is correct or not, and we will send you a complete Prize List, together with the names and addresses of persons who have recently received over Four Thousand One Hundred Dollars in Cash. Prizes from us, and full particulars of a simple condition that must be fulfilled. (This condition does not involve the spending of any of your money.)

Winners of cash prizes in our late competitions will not be allowed to enter this Contest. This Competition will be judged by two well known business men of undoubted integrity, who have no connection with this Company, whose decisions must be accepted as final.

Upon receipt of your reply we will send a complete list of the names and addresses of persons who have won \$4,100.00 in Cash Prizes in recent contests held by the publishers of this advertisement. Although these persons are entirely unknown to us, they are our references. An enquiry from any one of them will bring the information that our contests are carried out with the utmost fairness and integrity. Your opportunity to win a good round sum is equally as good as that of anyone else, as all previous winners of cash prizes are debarred from entering this contest.

Send Your Reply Direct to

GOOD HOPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY
46 ST. ALEXANDER STREET, MONTREAL, CAN.