

Beatty and Admiral Meurer were fresh in each mind when I came on board two days ago. In the moonlight that evening three merry young officers reconstructed the scene on the quarter-deck for me with mock solemnity. Yesterday the expectation of the unbelievable climax drove all other thoughts from the mind, and as time went by, and scraps of news passed from mouth to mouth, the atmosphere of eagerness grew even more intense. But it was still a controlled emotion. Naval men pretend to be as unemotional as jelly-fish. Of course they are not. Yet it must be confessed that few in the **Queen Elizabeth**—the "Q.E.," as the Fleet calls her—spent as sleepless a night as your correspondent. Early in the afternoon a notice was posted as follows which deserves to be put on record:—

(1) It is to be impressed on all officers and men that a state of war exists during the Armistice.

(2) Their relations with officers and men of the German Navy with whom they may now be brought into contact are to be of a strictly formal character.

(3) In dealing with the late enemy, while courtesy is obligatory, the methods with which they have waged the war must not be forgotten.

(4) No international compliments are to be paid and all conversation is forbidden, except in regard to the immediate business to be transacted.

(5) If it is necessary to provide food for German officers and men they should not be entertained, but it should be served to them in a place specially set apart.

It was generally known that by the terms of the Armistice the German ships were to be unarmed and manned only by navigating crews, but the Navy does not believe in taking unnecessary chances. Treachery was not expected, but all was made ready to blow the German ships out of the water should any trick be attempted. Last night the Grand Fleet lay at its moorings in the Firth of Forth. Above the bridge were battleships, destroyers, and submarines, and conspicuous among them was the French armoured cruiser **Admiral Aube**, flying the flag of Rear-Admiral Grasset, which, with two destroyers, represented the French Navy in the final act of the great drama. Below the bridge were battleships, battle-cruisers, and light cruisers, and again a prominent place was taken by ships of a partner nation in the struggle, the **New York**, flying the flag of Admiral Rodman, with Admiral Sims and his staff on board, and the **Florida**, **Wyoming**, and **Arkansas**. H.M.S. **Canada*** was above the bridge

*NOTE.—Not a Canadian battleship but one named in honour of Canada.