

were to be given to the six chosen swimmers from "the Victorious," and each had to swim with his mine to one of the six large German men-of-war, to which in some way he was to attach the deadly machine he had in tow. The lieutenant ordered his men to fix them to the stems or sterns of the vessels, as such a course would materially lessen the risk of discovery. He himself would swim with them and attach the wire which would be connected with a battery on "the Snake." In this way the German ships would be completely at his mercy. It was a bold, almost a reckless plan, but in its very boldness lay its chief chance of success.

"The Snake" reached St. John's soon after midnight. Although the wind had abated, the rain was falling faster than ever, and a heavy fog hung over the sea. At the mouth of the channel Trevelyan stopped his engines, which for the last half hour had been going dead slow. Quickly and silently the boats were lowered into the water, and in a few minutes the destroyer was being towed through the channel. A quarter of an hour saw the successful accomplishment of the first part of the daring enterprise. "The Snake" lay just inside the harbour proper, while not more than eighty yards off the lights of the enemy's ships were dimly visible through the fog. They were lying at anchor in close zig zag formation, so that the broadside of every ship could be brought to bear on the town of St. John's. In a few minutes the lieutenant and his six men stripped and were let down quietly into the water. The submarine mines were lowered next and also a small floating raft about three feet square, on which were coils of thin copper wire and two pairs of wire cutters. A thick heavy mist hung over the water, which was smooth and still. Trevelyan assigned a ship to each of his six companions and immediately afterwards the little expedition started, every sailor towing a mine, while the lieutenant swam along with his little raft. The latter had given orders to those who were