

THE TRUE STORY OF THE BATTLE OF SKAGER-RACK

Prof. W. M. Conacher of
Queen's Writes Notable
Summary of Fight

GERMANS TRIED TO BEAT BRITISH

But Were Forced to Return to Harbor, Battered and Smashed

Putting together all details we are able by now to form some idea of the naval battle on the anniversary of Howe's "Glorious First of June," when France sustained her first naval defeat of the wars of the revolution.

Not Like Trafalgar

It is, of course, out of all proportion to compare this battle to Trafalgar, in anything but tonnage, where the modern have the upper hand enormously. For in the campaign that led up to Trafalgar, Britain won by seamanship. There was no two power standard in those days, and Britannia did not definitely rule the waves till after Trafalgar. In this war she has ruled the waves from the first day of the war, and Germany admitted the fact but has been unable to do so of fortune all on one side. Colonel Feyer in his preliminary articles on the war stressed the fact that war could be won without a battle. This war was being won at sea without a battle, and we had been told all along that the German fleet would only come out in desperation. More than that she could only risk a battle of just the kind the Skager-Rack action was. If she was very lucky she could risk another, and two or three such actions, all successful for her, might give her some chance of doing battle in earnest with the British Grand fleet. But on her own showing her net loss does not improve the proportion for her. The British fleet is still half as big again as the German, without counting French, Russian and Italian ships. So even to her own people Germany can only claim a moral victory, unless she insists that British losses were greater than they were. The honesty and openness of the admiralty statement is the best possible counter to the claim of a moral victory.

Still Inferior

In reality Germany is still faced with the awful fact of the preponderance of the British Navy coupled with the strangle hold of the blockade, and the drag of a long, long war. She is "as you were" on the day war broke out and the knowledge of our naval superiority was what drove Germany to the worst form of schrecklichkeit. Nothing human, however, is absolutely German. Germany has made her calculations on chance, error on the part of the adversary, and what would have to be the very long arm of attrition. She also relied on the mine field as the one thing which might conceivably redress the balance in her favor and doubtless had hopes, but only hopes in the submarine.

Has Bigger Guns

Even to her present inferiority on the sea, another element has been added. Britain while going for the big gun ship, has all along gone for the even bigger gun. Germany has considered that the number of guns, that is the number of possible hits to a broadside was more important than the comparative size of the gun. Our Dreadnought had ten 12-inch guns. Germany's twelve 11-inch guns. The bigger gun fires rather farther, and this war has seen battles commencing at ranges thought inconceivable. The mistiness of the day and the consequent necessity for closer range gave

ALLIES RUSH TO AID OF FRENCH IN FIERCE VERDUN CAMPAIGN



THE COLONIAL SCOTTISH AT MARSEILLES

The Allies, realizing the necessity of strengthening the French line about Verdun, have been sending reinforcements to combat the foe for months have been making fierce assaults in that direction. The French have stood their ground nobly, but the attack with such a severe campaign on it was best to send help. In the accompanying picture is shown a detachment of British troops who arrived at Marseilles ready to assist the French in the grueling work.

The Germans very likely what advantage they gained on June 1.

Why Were Huns Out?

Coming to the battle itself, we need not concern ourselves what the precise occasion was. It may have been that the Germans meant to come out, or it may have been that at last in one of their little trots up and down the Danish coast, they were caught or half caught by Jellicoe's men. The first German official account has all the foxiness which has become a feature of German war bulletins. "The whole German fleet met the British fleet which included thirty-four big modern units—which is vague—and engaged it successfully." "The major portion of the German fleet returned to its port"—the minor portion is still defaulting on the instalment system, and the morale of the men is excellent. If they had defeated the British fleet that reassuring statement would hardly have been necessary.

Perhaps we may get a better idea of what happened from Capt. Punt of the trawler, Captain John Brown, and the Danish Captain of the Næsborg. Capt. Punt reports seeing German fleet of fifty vessels sailing north, and a British fleet appearing from the north and attempting to cut it in two. British ships appeared of smaller tonnage than the German, but were reinforced at dark by larger vessels, when the Germans retired. The Næsborg tells a similar tale. He saw the British destroyers driven in by German cruisers and the British Dreadnought cruisers came up and engaged the German fleet which was reinforced by more German ships from the South. After several losses on either side the German fleet withdrew south, while new British ships appearing cut it in two, the one half making good its escape. Both these independent witnesses agree on the German retreat and on British reinforcements; both agree on the cutting in two of the German fleet. The German Admiralty do not see conditions, and have decided what story they should tell, as their version must be a cook-

ed one for military purposes but they insist on a clash of the two main fleets, which may indeed have been true after midnight when darkness would forbid big ship fighting. They claim that older and slower British battleships arrived the next day and took no part in the engagement, while they dispute that Jellicoe held the field next day, though obviously their original statement of a speedy return to port and report of victory must stand. To offset this, however, they claim that their destroyers scoured the scene of action and rescued British sailors clinging to the wrecks. The statement by a British Admiralty official, which however is evidently part surmise and apparently by civilian official divides the battle into four parts.

Four Parts

(1) 3.15 p.m. battle cruiser engagement begins. Beatty reports hostile battle cruiser sunk at this stage. British lose three battle cruisers.

(2) Shortly after battleships arrive on both sides. Close range fighting on account of mist giving low visibility.

(3) Arrival of the Grand Fleet. Running fight as Germans retreated to their base.

(4) Attacks and counter-attacks of destroyers through the night. Jellicoe sweeps field of action in morning before returning to harbor. This account may be amplified by initial reports of the Herald picked up from the men returned from battle. Reference to the accompanying rough map may help to understand the situation. According to it Beatty with Lion, Tiger and Queen Mary and Indefatigable (three vessels armed with 13.5, and one with 12-inch guns) met the German battle cruiser squadron and engaged. Both fleets, of course, had light cruisers and destroyers in attendance. Meanwhile the Warspite had been covering herself with glory. The supposition is that leading the four fast battleships (Warspite, Marlborough, Malaya, Denbigh with 8 15-inch guns except Marlborough which has 10 13.5 guns) she suddenly found the German main fleet appear on the horizon. It must be remembered that the normal horizon of seven mile radius is now within easy range. One German official report is that coming under hostile gunfire from the flank, the German fleet headed west. This movement, of course, would bring them on to the British and it was then the fun began. Nelson cried in delight at Trafalgar, "see how nobly Collingwood goes into action." The same thought was in Beatty's mind. "If you could have seen the pluck with which Hood led his squadron into action," he declared, while he seems to have signalled the Warspite to clear out and leave him. But the Warspite could not. She was apparently leading and ran into the thick of it. Doubtless half the gunners in the German navy have declared that they gave the Warspite her coup de grace. But it seemed as if the steel that was forged in England could not be pierced, and her captain speaks of that crowded hour of glorious life, as if it were a question of taking headers surf-bathing on a sunny morning. Her steering gear went wrong and she gyrated in curves in the midst of German battleships. "As we left the fighting line we disappeared in a complete veil of spray," said her captain, but the Glasgow Herald man saw her arrive in port next morning at the head of the line.

Gave as Good as They Got

It was during this stage of the battle when this division of the fleet was holding up the whole German fleet that we are asked to believe nothing happened to the German ships. But then after the first month's attack on Verdun, the Germans returned their losses as 30,000 men! It is possible no big ship was sunk at once. Gas bags of course would keep a damaged ship afloat, and V. Tirpitz may have been with the fleet in an unofficial capacity. But we may believe the Captain of the Warspite. "We gave as good as we got." All the same the odds were heavy and it was well that Jellicoe arrived at night, and triple cursed luck that he did not arrive with two hours of day light, for undoubtedly the fight was a bitter disappointment, and to avert that

disappointment Beatty and Hood had offered themselves as a sacrifice and in vain.

Slipped Away in the Dark

With night the Germans stole away, and it was here that the destroyers came in. It was here, too, that the third of a squad of our destroyers claim to have given the Hindenburg its quietus. The first three were wiped out. The fourth got home with all four torpedo tubes. The Marlboro' on our side survived one torpedo in its appendix. The Hindenburg went under, and the sea takes a terrible toll where these modern leviathans go down.

By next morning the German fleet was well on its way on an unmentioned "enterprise southward."

Drawn Battle

What is the score? The British fleet of first-class ships was at the least half as numerous again as the German at the beginning of the war. The British speed in building a ship (Continued on page 16)

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ee of Father's Houses were vacant.

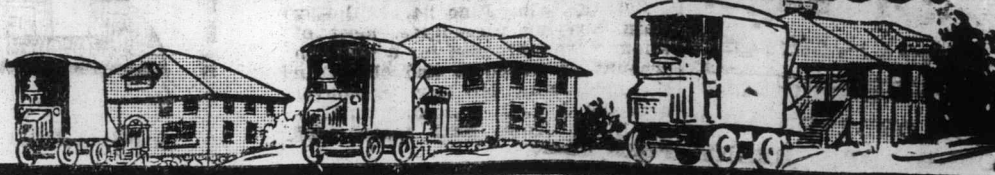


And had been vacant for some time. And Dad was getting mighty peeved about it because he had put up those houses for an investment, not for pleasure. And he was getting hotter every day when I happened to think that a

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DAILY

REVE OF

By
How Madge

"GOOD morning,"
The words, uttered
tense of a human's vo
me. I stood in the living
Brennan house on the outsk
vin, which Dicky had rent
tending the work of a big
with flannel-covered brush,
the dust and cobwebs from
and walls. I had discovere
the morning that while the c
an Mr. Brennan had enga
was a fairly reliable work
hand had to be watched
would suffer. So I had dispe
and the woman helper to ti
and attic, and supervised
work myself.

I turned to the door to
third-looking but pleasant
spare of figure, with iron
features which once must
pretty, and a complexion w
traces of beauty it possess
owner was young.

"Good morning," I returne
"I am your neighbor, di
ate, Mrs. Burchell," she sa
"I ran over to see if there
you needed. If you wish to
phone or I have anything
help you, please consider
service."

"Why, that is very kind
sure," I stammered. I was
overcome at this neighbor
which made me realize as a
ing else could, the difference
city from which I was no
country village which was
home for the summer. I em
tarily at the idea of a new
dweller, concerning herself
comfort of a new neighbor.

"I am sorry I cannot
chair," I went on. "Perhap
you a box."

"Oh, no," she returned, "I
me at the suggestion. "Her
tam," she turned to the big
keep right on with your
mind stopping to listen. Yo
the hour remember?"

Mrs. Burchell's Comment
"Yass'm, yass'm,"
ning, asked to drawing h
the walls with a ludicrous
ery. I began to revise m
my new neighbor. Of cou
had loitered at his work wh
my watching, she her
startled and annoyed me.

She evidently had no conc
feeling, however, for her ne
to be a confidential hand-o
der."

"Surely," she said, "you a
to keep that old square p
Brennan."
"Mr. Brennan said this m
he gave me the keys that he
he taken away very shortly."
"Reports," Mrs. Burchell laug
"Don't you believe a word
said. "That man won't do
he isn't compelled to do. H
promises. He will promise y
but doing it is a different
were in your place I'd call
if he doesn't send for it, an
bodily. Why, the attic ab
barn and that little shack t
the garden where the fire
are filled with stuff. You'd
the use of the out building
saw Mr. Brennan stowing
move them as long as he
good place to store them."
By this time I had the w
fied. She was a gossip an
maker. I was sure. But he
ried me secretly. I had m
inspection of the ground
Brennan's departure in the
heaps of tin cans, ash
rubbish which littered the

Today's Fas



Coatee Frock of Apple
White Taffeta

THE coatee frock is one
mer's reigning fav
charming model is of
and white taffeta and em
late of a pale cream color
of the apple-green and
silk is cut with kimona s
trimmed with dark green
A narrow piping of plain g
lines the lower edge of t
The wide skirt is of the
tasteful. And a short apr
across the front from ben
of green velvet ribbon.