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Striking Contrast of the Jack Tars of To-Day and the Men at Trafalgar.

(By Paymaster-in-Chief Charles E. Byron, R.N.)

would a seaman of the days tion make possible the employment of Nelson say now if he could be of a better class of man. brought to life again, and could be The accommodation provided for shown the wonders of a modern the crew of a modern warship may Dreadnought? not err on the side of luxury, but at What would he say if you tried to least it is adequate. So also is the explain to him the workings of that food.

wireless telegraphic apparatus? Of In the days of Nelson, Jack Tar was these mysterious torpedo tubes? Of expected to subsist on an absurdly that still more mysterious sca-plane small daily ration of a disagreeable anchored" cn the deck? mixture called burgoo, salt meat What would he say if you told him salt fish, and biscuits, with, o that those turbine engines could course, his allowance of rum.

propel the ship through the sea at a How he managed to keep body and speed approaching 24 knots an hour? soul together is somewhat of a mys-Or that one alone of those 13.5-in. tery. Right down to October, 1903 guns was able to throw a weight of the Navy had only three official metal as great as a whole broadside meals a day-breakfast, consisting of of Nelson's Victory? * biscuit and a pint of milkless cocoa at 6.30 a.m.; dinner at noon, and a

Those Doughty Deeds.

supper of tea and bread or biscuit at Would he not rub his eyes and 4.30 p.m. hink that he must be dreaming some Latterly, of course, he could sur strange dream indced? Surely, you plement this meagre fare-at his own will say, he could see nothing in comexpense-from the ship's canteen. mon between the steel-clad monster But in Nelson's days such things as of to-day and those ships, built of canteens did not exist, though periodgood old British oak, in which once ically some of the necessary luxuries he served. of life could be obtained from bum-

But that, I think, is where you are boatmen. wrong. He could, I believe, find the Since 1903 the feeding of the Navy seamen aboard that Dreadnought true has greatly improved. Jack's daily sons of those doughty fighters in ration now costs the country ten whose company he had sailed the pence. But he need not have all his seas, equally courageous, equally ration in food. He can take sixwell-disciplined, and equally strong tenths of it in food and four-tenths in allegiance to the Flag. in good, hard cash. That is to say Of course, the conditions of life in

he can select fourpennyworth of his own favorite dishes daily from the

whilst the type of seamen required ship's stores or canteen. This is a has changed completely. valuable concession. Say he doesn't Nelson's sailor was a hard, darewant his rum. Then every other day devil character, recruited for the he is entitled to receive 14d. in lieu

most part from the lowest orders of | society, by means of the press gangs. Rum was introduced in the Service

the Navy are utterly different;

traditions.

and from the gaols, and then taught early in the eighteenth century as discipline by a cat-o'-nine-tails, the substitute for beer; but in 1745 old theory being that a hundred stinging Admiral Vernon, known in the Serstrokes from a lusty bo'sun's mate vice as "Old Grog!" on account of uld kill or make a man of him. the grogan breeches he always wore The modern sailor is recruited from mong what is best in the nation. would be rendered less disorderly by le must be a man of decent educathe daily tots if he mixed the rum tion, and of spotless character; in a

with water. word, one endowed with all the vir-

After "Old Grog." tues of his forbears and none of his

Before long this reform was uni-But don't mistake my meaning. It versally adopted, and thenceforth the is not my purpose to decry the men new drink bore Admiral Vernon's who won Trafalgar. Since 1805 the nickname.

Navy, it is true, his improved beyond Grog still is prepared with all cereecognition; but its efficacy as a mony at 12.30 p.m. each day on board fighting force still depends on its every British ship of war. But the number of men who take it is becom-

ing smaller every year, for of those Bed and Breakfast. If the seaman of to-day is a better who serve in the King's Navy an inman than the seaman of Nelson's creasingly large percentage are imes, it is only because in naval strong temperance men-a striking warfare science has superseded brute contrast to the state of affairs which ce, and because modern civiliza- existed in the days of Nelson. Then

