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The BRITISH NAVY. PAST and PRESENT.

Canoes, Busses and Dreadnoughts. . . . -- CLIVE HOLLAND

From the period of the battle against formation, we are told, was so close falgar covers practically the whole of beam. and very well described, too.

Early Ships What the first English Navy was like we can gain, happily, a fairly ac curate conception from the valuable evidence afforded by the ancient ship dug up at Gokstad in Norway in 1880 It was probably constructed in the ninth century, and presented a distinct advance upon the "dug canoes of earlier periods. This ancient vessel was "clinker" built, that is to say, it had its planks overlapping one another, a method of construction which is still used the building of wooden small craft.

From this ancient Norwegian galley of Alfred's day to the huge mammoth super-Dreadnoughts of to-day is, indeed, a far cry. Let us briefly compare the two vessels. The boats of Alfred's Navy were probably less than 80 feet over all, with a beam approximating 161/2 feet and a draught of about 4 feet. To-day, in place of hese, we have the huge battleships of 58,000 tons, 650 feet in length, 94 feet in beam, and 271/2 feet draught.

Cœur de Lion's Fleet

The story of the British Navy and its many achievements forms one long chain of gallant and daring episodes not seldom tinged with real romance, from the days of Alfred to those of Nelson. Brief accounts of Danish piratical raids, of the French free-booters, or Drake and the Armada, and of the Burmese war are here. Stirring events all.

Here are some interesting details egarding the fleet which was formed by Richard Cœur de Lion, who joined Phillip Augustus of France in one of the crusades. It was a great advance upon anything that the English Navy had, up to that 'date, accomplished. It consisted, we are told, of three large ships in the van, carrying soldiers and stores, and one of them also had on board Berengaria, Richard's Queen, and the Queen of Sicily.

The second line was composed of

The Royal Navy, onwards from the 13 ships, the third of 14, and the ard's time was William de Wrotham, days of King Alfred, who was named fourth of 20, the fifth of 30, the sixth Archdeacon of Taunton, who was dethe "father of the English Navy," is of 40, the seventh of 60, with about scribed as "Keeper of the King's a story of continuous development. 50 galleys bringing up the rear. The Ships."

the Danes, fought by the fleet that that trumpet-calls could be heard King Alfred the Great brought into from one ship to the other, and the know that in 1370 the seaman's pay being in 897, down to the day of Tra- vessels could hail each other to the was raised to 4d. daily, and that the

> carry 1,500 men." The ships in those in that year. It was one of the first days, too, bore strange names. There three vessels to be built chiefly for were Galliasses, Gallions, Busses, Dro fighting purposes. a swift vessel rowed by a large num- 1,000 tons were built for the Navy. despatch boat. The Busses fully de- was one of these. In these days the London strees. They were construct- days, Wednesdays and Saturdays the

in the hands of the priests and the daily, and the seamen were allowed First Lord of the Admiralty of Rich- beer or else a mixture of sack with

said, 12 months' provisions.

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so cheap, when everything is so dear in other places."

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Fourpence a Day

Navy of King Edward was managed English Naval history, and in the Western shipbuilding we learn at by the King himself and his Council book under notice we have this story that date was far less advanced than It was Henry VII, in 1490, who made of the Navy described by a seaman, that of Eastern nations, for the com- an attempt to build up a permanent paratively small vessels forming Navy and the "Great Harry" or the Richard's fleet were "affrighted by a "Regent," as the ship was also great Turkish ship big enough to called, was launched on the Rother

> mons, Barges and Snokes-the latter, In Henry VIII.'s time, vessels of ber of men, used, it is believed, as a The famous "Henry Grace a Dieu" served their name, although it is seamen's rations consisted of 34 lb. doubtful whether they derived it from beef, 1/2 lb. bacon on Sundays, Tuesthe same source as the 'bus of the day's and Thursdays; while on Moned to carry 15 sailors, 40 knights and seamen had four herrings and 2 lbs. their horses, 40 attendant footmen, a cheese; and on Friday every mess of like number of servants, and, it is four men were served with 1/2 lb. In those days the Navy was largely lb .bread or biscuit was supplied

> > double its quantity of water. The story of the British Navy is rich in adventure. Twelve years before Columbus started on his memorable voyage-that is to say, in 1480an English seaman, Thylde by name, made an attempt to reach America; and in 1497 John Cabot, of Bristol, landed on Cape Breton; and 70 years later, Sir Martin Frobisher made an attempt to discover the baffling North

> > West Passage. On the abdication of James II. in 1688, the strength of the Navy was as follows: -9 ships first-rate, 11 ships second-rate, 39 ships third-rate 41 ships fourth-rate, 3 ships fifth-rate, 6 ships sixth-rate, 26 fire-ships, 39 small craft, with a total manning of 42,003 men and 6,930 guns. The largest of the vessels was the "Britannia," 1,739 tons, 100 guns, and 780 men. She was 146 feet in length and 20 feet draught.

Nowadays it seems strange, indeed, for us to learn that previous to 1714 all that was necessary for a lad to become an officer in the Navy was the patronage of a Captain, and it is unnecessary to say that few became offi cers save members of themoneyed and landed gentry classes.

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Bowring's Cove.

From the time of the introduction swift barges for the King's service. seafaring life has gone by the board. lic service connected with it. In the pages of this little book one has a brief though adequate account of the principal battles from that which took place off the South Foreland in 1217, down to the engagement between the "Shannon" and "Chesapeake" in 1812, and descriptions of the chief admirals and fam-

In the latter sections Commander Eldred gives many interesting details concerning the Navy of to-day, its men, officers, organization, etc., with tabulated lists of ships, and comparative tables of the forces of modern

on the skill of our ship-builders, but Naval powers. Not the least interestin 1795 a great piece of good fortune ing is the section dealing with the befell the English Navy by the cap- cost of the Navy, showing how it inture of the French 40-gun frigate, the creased and fluctuated from the time "Pomone," a faster vessel than any in of the Stuarts down to our own day the British Navy. Her capture pro- Under this heading and in a note, we vided our own ship-builders and de- find £40 was paid in 1229 to the signers with an excellent model, from King's Clerk at Portsmouth for the which they were not slow to take repair of the King's galley and the hints and upon which their skill great ship, while a few years later effected considerable improvements. 100 marks were paid for making four

of steam in 1840, much of the romance To-day we are being asked for close of the Navy has disappeared and cer- upon £50,000,000, on account of the tainly much of the picturesqueness of fleet and various departments of pub-

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