

and years, could never be relaxed for a moment, in the development of submarine warfare and the final, unscrupulous, use of that war machine along lines never dreamed of as possible between civilized nations. The German Navy, also, lived in safe retirement while the merchant vessels of its nation were swept from the seas, but it strove day and night to get even one of its cruisers through the British cordon. Such a ship as the *Emden* did immense damage to the merchant shipping of the Allies; what would not have happened if dozens of such cruisers had got past the British warders.

The Royal Navy had to guard against this and with two or three exceptions did so in full measure; it had to bottle up the second greatest Navy in the world and it did so with brilliant success—at Jutland defeating the one serious and sustained effort to break through; it had to tie up German merchant ships and trade and did so in splendid style; it had to hold up or overcome the Submarine and eventually did so in a degree surpassing hope and wonderful in its details of scientific effort, clever strategy, continuous exertion and brilliant initiative; it had to make the seas safe for commerce and during the four years of war did make it possible for the British Empire to carry on a trade of forty thousand million dollars (\$40,000,000,000); it had to provide instant safety on and after August 4th, 1914, for the transfer to France of that gallant little Army which stemmed the hordes of German soldiers at Mons and helped to hold the left of the French forces which won the first Battle of the Marne and saved Paris and the coasts of France; it actually established and held, during four and a half years of bitter warfare, a lane of safe passage for the transfer from England to France of millions of men and billions of tons of supplies and munitions.

Yet the situation to the British Navy and to its sailors or merchant seamen was at first untried and unknown. No great Naval battle had been fought since Trafalgar a hundred years before; conditions of Naval warfare had changed absolutely from the old wooden walls of Nelson, the unrifled guns, or the cutlass-armed sailors or boarders of previous struggles at sea; great floating structures of iron and steel now swept the stormy waters with ease and wonderful speed; cannon of vast size could fire immense shells for twenty miles with accurate aim and power in a single broadside from one battleship sufficient to have wrecked the whole Spanish Armada; wireless telegraphy, aeroplanes and swift destroyers, were at hand for purposes of attack or as a guard against surprise.

On the other hand the Fleets had to face artillery in the skies as well as on the sea; unseen Submarines like giant swordfish threatened the vitals of the ships from the ocean depths below; unknown elements of gun-fire, subterfuges un-