

# Books and Men

## Beatty the Hero—Jellicoe an Enigma

Not by any means did the Battle of Jutland finish when in June, 1916, the German High Sea Fleet dragged its battered force into the docks of Wilhelmshaven, and Jellicoe, cautiously counting the toll exacted and inflicted, steamed back to Scapa Flow in silence. Ever since then, and particularly after the hysteria of immediate warfare, the greatest naval engagement of all time has been fought, won and lost again—with both spoken and written word. But now this issue, which still flares up in the wardrooms of navies, in the councils of admiralities and among the rank and file the world over, appears to have been answered most completely and finally in "The Riddle of Jutland," by an American naval historian and a British admiral.

ENGLAND won the battle, in the opinion of these judges, who dissect the whole affair with such care that their verdict is amply supported by their impartial presentation of both sides of the story. The decision, moreover, is based not only on the devastating contact between the British Grand Fleet and the German High Sea Fleet, but upon the whole trend of the World War, which it briefly traces. Every blunder, every stroke of naval genius, British or German, is recounted for what it is worth with cold, uncoloured facts which must inspire respect for the courage and skill of both sides.

Two most commanding phases of the book revolve around the naval leaders and the terrific shock of action. One figure dominates the critical deliberation of this verbal aftermath—Sir John Jellicoe, commander-in-chief of the Grand Fleet, now Earl Jellicoe and a former Governor-General of New Zealand. Germany claimed the victory in the engagement off Jutland, and after the news of the whole battle had been digested by the English people a large proportion of those thought their enemies had every right to the claim. Jellicoe was made the butt of much bitter argument, and countless tongues, out of ignorance or otherwise, have since heaped upon him the calumny which is customary when a hero apparently lets his public down.

For the battle itself, fear and uncertainty gripped those in England when the early rumours trickled through, then followed an emotional reaction among them, based on Admiral David Beatty's battering. Two of his six battle-cruisers had been blown up—a pounding interpreted by the public in terms of action and leadership. Beatty was the hero, Jellicoe an enigma. Details of the four distinct movements which marked the progress of the battle are provided by the naval authors of this latest book movements which are not new to thousands of readers.

The post-war mind cannot truly comprehend the frightful orgy of devastation which was the battle. Beatty bore the British brunt of the running duel to the south, Indefatigable and

Queen Mary exploding into atoms in a sky of yellow flame and hurtling men and metal. At the first contact with Jellicoe, Scheer bore the German brunt in a fierce concentration of fire. Both commands held unwaveringly to plans of action through an inferno of raging destruction. Evan-Thomas's Fifth Battle Squadron wins praise for extricating Beatty in his strategic re-



EARL JELICOE.

"Answer to the riddle of Jutland."

treat upon Jellicoe's force. Beatty is held liable by the authors for rashness in engaging Hipper's units without waiting for Evan-Thomas to join in the action. Commodore Goodenough stands out for his scionting alertness, as Jellicoe's fingertips. A Grand Fleet detachment under Hood gets credit for helping to drive Hipper into an encircling movement. Beatty then plays the trump of all naval tactics, crossing Hipper's bows in the movement known as crossing the T—"one desirable above all others in a fleet action because it opposes maximum strength to the enemy's weakest point." Then comes Windy Corner and Jellicoe's deployment of the Grand Fleet for battle, "the most remarkable single evolution of ships the sea has ever seen."

Magnificent as a marine spectacle,

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## In Africa Prince of Wales Has Some Narrow Escapes

SO often does one read of the official life and doings of the Prince of Wales that anything which throws a light on his unofficial life is very welcome. In "Sport and Travel in East Africa," one of Philip Allan's recent publications compiled from the private diaries of his Royal Highness, the Prince is revealed not only as a sportsman, but as a naturalist and explorer.

His Royal Highness had two African shooting trips within twelve months, the first being in 1928, when, after an official visit to Kenya and Uganda, he went on a big game hunting expedition through the Tanganyika Territory. The King's illness during this trip necessitated a hurried return to England, but the Prince of Wales was not long in returning to the big game territories of Africa, and early in 1929 he arrived at Cape Town and proceeded up country to Mombasa. This visit was unofficial, his main object being to observe and photograph big game in their natural surroundings. After a few weeks in Kenya, he started for Uganda, hunting in the neighbourhood of Lake Albert and the Victoria Nile, and then went on to Belgian Congo. Here he trekked some 250 miles through bush and forest, walking about 20 miles a day, accompanied very often only by a handful of natives and a single white man. A month later he passed into the Sudan and made his way by the Bahr el Jebel and White Nile to Khartoum.

Many of the incidents are related here for the first time. In his anxiety to film big game at close quarters, the Prince necessarily took risks, and there were adventures which ended with a deep and definite sigh of relief, and in one interesting passage there is a very humorous account of a fact not previously disclosed that the British Empire might have lost its Prince of Wales had it not been for the unerring aim and skill of the two official huntsmen of the party, Pearson and Salmon. The former, with slight regard for his Royal Highness's person but a very deep one for his life, up-ended the Prince of Wales in a thornbush so that he could adequately deal with an enraged and charging elephant.

"Sport and Travel in East Africa." Compiled from the private diaries of the Prince of Wales by Patrick Chalmers, Philip Allan. Our copy from the publishers.

IF I take a piece of paper the next time I go when the feeding of my pigs is on and put down in the old notation every squeal, every grunt, I turn out as good a specimen of modern music as you can get.—Mr. Lloyd George.