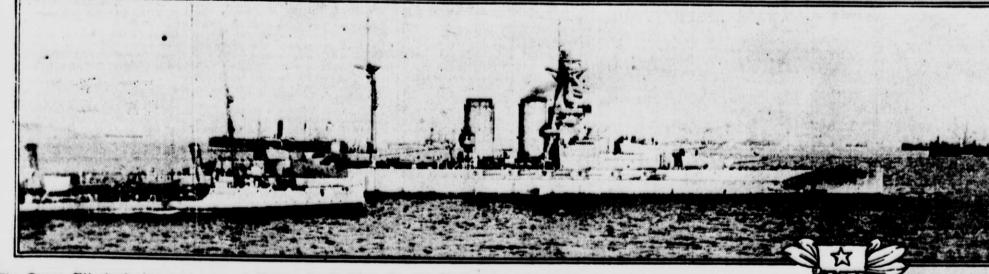
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LESSONS FOR UNCLE SAM IN LONG RANGE NAVAL BATTLES



The Queen Elizabeth, heaviest type of British battleship. At the Dardanelles she bombarded the forts with her 15 inch guns at the extreme range of 21,000 yards.

European Experts' Theories of Gunfire Built on Peace Practice Entirely Upset When Fighting Ships Went Into Action---Civilian Control of Navy Might Be Fatal in a Crisis, Says A. H. Pollen

SUN last Sunday A. H. Pollen, the greatest naval authority

naval tactics of the future.

erview with him in London I asked of the gunnery of fast cruisers. m to tell me of this war's surprises. one, both by land and sea.

"Surprises?" said Mr. Pollen. "This war has been full of them, Several curred elsewhere.

"Principal among those which have wrong. developed during actual sea engagements has been the long range at have used about the same gunnery which it has been found possible to methods, and but for the fact that light. There is, in this, a great les- the British navy had the advantage son for the American navy to study. in calibre the gunnery of the two sides as there are in it revelations which should have been about equally effecmuch upset many of the theories of tive. European experts.

600 yards. Hits were made at this dis- bigger guns, had another asset of intance on the Dogger Bank, and at calculable value. It had vastly more the Falkland Islands a gun of in- experience than the Germans in acferior calibre made hits at 13,000 yards tual practice with full charges at the d even 14,000 yards. This unexpected range efficiency "The German and even 14,000 yards.

undoubtedly has been one of the ele- to long range target practice two or ments explaining a second great sur- three years before the war began. prise. That has been the unexpect- whereas our men have been firing an edly jong duration of this war's naval average of nearly thirty rounds per

"The naval experts of the world had at the longest possible ranges." theoretically decided that a very few [hits, or even one, from modern naval an obvious lesson for America?" I guns would put an enemy vessel out of action, but the vessels upon both sides of this war have shown an un-expected endurance. This is a matter the American contention that its navy expected endurance. This is a matter of extreme importance to students of of enforcing peace than for the pur-

naval matters.

ways have learned most. The sur- and midday, damaged all her oppoprises of one war invariably form the nents badly and herself was damaged, foundation of the tactics of the next but no single one of these actions was

> utes with each opponent. was excellent. But the method was

"In this war both sides apparently civil chief.

"It should be said that the British "The maximum has been about 18.- navy, in addition to being armed with

"The Germans, I believe, only took annum per gun for nearly ten years

"You believe that in these facts lies "Indeed it does. I believe absolutely

Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee, K. C. pose of making war, but for the one

By EDWARD MARSHALL. N the interview printed in The Sun last Sunday A, H. Pollen, voted myself almost exclusively to the lutely despotic body with full control extreme peril might be created by the

The greatest naval authority among British laymen, dis-cussed the meaning of the war in re-lation to the world's naval knowledge and pointed out the lessons of especial concern to the United States navy. In a second interview Mr. Pollen went further into the subject of the navai claim my absolute certainty that this civilian. But his naval colleagues, local control he saw in a flash that developments of the war and made war already has proved that methods numbering four to three professionals there existed then no obstacle between important statements regarding naval gunnery, naval administration and lutionized if the full value of a battle- appointed to the board by the Prime ship in France. He prophesied the ship's armament is to be obtained in Minister and not by the First Lord of advent of Napoleon with almost exact At the beginning of my second in-erview with him in London I asked of the gunnery of fast cruisers.

"Let me illustrate: The Arethusa at able to insure and did insure the op- "Similarly thoughtful people in Eng-It has been through the surprises Helgoland, where the range never ex-which each campaign has developed ceeded 5,000 yards, fought five sepa-that military and naval authorities al-rate actions between 7 in the morning "But in 1869 an order in council was was such that if war broke out issued which altered this arrangement, when an energetic, impatient, fearless The First Lord of the Admiralty be- civilian was in charge of the navy be decisive, although she certainly was came solely responsible for the navy would have the power, supposing that fighting for an average of thirty min- to Parliament. He himself chose and he had the will, to dominate it.

appointed his naval colleagues, and "It is to the full realization of this "Her guns were powerful enough to though the forms of a board were still unfortunate possibility, due to a fals of importance have occurred in the actions at sea, while others have oc-gether in five minutes. Her gunnery professional member was limited to that Great Britain at the present monavy. I refer now to the attempt to study.

"Thus the whole Admiralty and ad- take the Dardanelles by ships alone.



that for his department and he an- ment must charge the greatest failure "This is the episode of this war trained in times of peace and effi- your navy a civilian Secretary with served, namely, that the subjects swered not to Parliament but to his perhaps in the history of the British which Americans most carefully should ciently commanded in war time, it lidens of his own as to what the navy chosen for experiment, that is, the with confidence that is for, how it should be run, how it objects sought by experiment, shall If the United States wishes to have a navy efficiently prepared and neither the preparation nor the leader- should be employed in war—that day be suggested by the known technical ship can by any possibility be right the whole of your investment and the needs of the navy, and shall not be unless your nation makes sure that in whole of your magnificent material in suggested by brillhant amateurs of

your navy still may ing to its own professional ideas. During the last fourteen years I officers. have had the good fortune to be per-

experience has given me understanding of certain of their column that no one whose life ! ient to make his inter- American naval officer. They are ent moment.

You must find some way by means thre fighting value.

it shall be governed by a technical and many of your American naval officers. if the American navy, through this professional body, nevertheless, and I hope they will consider it a com-shall be trained and educated accord- pliment when I say that I have found the resources of America's unrivalied them very, very like British naval technicians, then there is no reason

"In my humble opinion, in all na- that navy which cannot be solved alhaps the only layman who has lived tions naval officers almost invariably most as soon as it is discovered and for long spells on naval ships, workof their fellow citizens. In its way the

echnical of their pro- its distinctiveness than that of either tion in connection with naval operahely orders or medicine-the two call-ings which are credited with most defis my solemnly ex-

"Naval service almost completely the future," Mr. Pollen answered. the saler than the difficul-urround naval administra-ement and operation with have been.

The Pennsylvania, the heaviest of the United States battle fleet. She carries twelve 14 inch guns and it is a disputed point among naval experts whether or not she is outranged for effective fighting by the Queen Elizabeth type, the difference in calibre of ordnance being offset by the weight of metal thrown in one of her broadsides. opyright, International Film Service tee as well us in war naval knowl-controls the naval machine. do not say will be-robbed of its en-complete outsiders. "If the American navy is to be made "During the past seven or eight the dog on which distinguished invenremain absolutely subject to the will years it has been my good fortune to tors' nostrums are to be tried I can-of Congress and the civil government, make the intimate acquaintance of not but be sorry for the navy, but

why there should exist any need of

"Are you willing to express an sea character is more remarkable in opinion as regards the future of avia-

"Undoubtedly aviation will be of im-

first, the

B, with two ships carrying sixteen 12- efficient inch guns, required three and a quar-ter hours for the sinking of the Scharnhorst, which had not enough "Unless you can make your battle

armor on her sides to keep out one practice more realistic than it has been, by introducing some difficulties

"This illustrates the great difference between actual naval fighting, under modern conditions, and the theoretical naval fighting which has formed the with some means of neutralizing these basis of peace battle practices and beace arrangements for using guns, for if the Scharnhorst had been cers and men the necessary experisuchored at the mean range of the ence to make them efficient by providleven thousand yards, the inflexible ing them lavishly with ammunition and invincible, Admiral Sturdee's two for practice firing, you cannot posships, could have sunk her in four sibly be equal to the task which is cer-minutes, because, once they had got tain to confront you in the circumthe range, they could have fired thirty- stances of actual warfare."

two 860 pound shells at her each "What suggestions have you to minute, and if a quarter of these had make concerning general commandthe Scharnhorst would have got the control of the navy?" I inquired. hits in 240 seconds. No ship of "In some respects that is the most her size could survive twenty. important of all questions.

u that episode was much food for thought. Another is not less signifi- British navy was administered by a 'Sir David Beatty with three battle board consisting of four naval officers cant to naval students.

ctuisers armed with twenty-four 13.5stituted the authority which disinch guns and two armed with sixguns fought the Gerknocked out the Lion, reducing the British 13.5s from 24 to 16. The thirty-two British guns, sixteen 13.5s contract.

teen 128. another hour. The Bluecher was sunk in this

ection and two of the German cruiser: acre on fire when they disappeared from sight, withdrawing from the action, but according to the best pretious theories of naval fighting the Bluecher should not have survived for half a minute after the range was got and no vessel should have been able to escape, on fire or not.

The mistaken calculations of the world's naval administrations, which were so wofully upset by this action of this war, prove the unreliability of the purely artificial character of battle e in time of peace and the misfrom the experiences of the Russo-Japanese war, when actions were fought at a short range.

'My statements in regard to this

a quarter hours.

Naval administrations nowhere realtwo nations. Does Germany owe her fred the full truth of the expert view great achievements in the practical etraight course.

is guns as efficiently when it was r hem as when it was on r hem practical inferiority? But the ex-ships have to cease firing the mo-thory begin to turn and then are r he mas when they get back again a straight course, then east of the reactionaries, a straight course, then east of the reactionaries, a straight course, then east of the reactionaries, r hem as whee the get back again r hem as whee the reactionaries, r hem as whee the sector the back again r hem as the back again r her practical inferiority? But the country of Pasteur and thory begin to turn and then are r hem as the back again r here the ideal of science one can scarce-thory begin to turn and then are r the neasures of the reactionaries, r here the ideal of the reactionaries, r here the ideal of science one can scarce-there practical inferiority? But the country of Pasteur and r here the ideal of science one can scarce- r the brench people, but to turn and then are r the neasures of the reactionaries, r here the ideal of the the pople, but to forescare. r here the ideal of the the pople, but the the the arts of peace to r the reactionaries, sould for the reactionaries, r here the ideal of the the pople, but the the the arts of peace to r the reactionaries, sould fore the ideal of the reactionaries, r here the ideal of the reactionaries, r here the ideal of the reaction the reacti which the necessity of rediscovering destroys this theory, which is so dear the range when they get back again to the hearts of the reactionaries. upon a straight course, then every na- One may employ, likewise, the examval lattle must become a series of ac- ples of the three great republics of for the first ten or fifteen | archies which are half democratic, like after both ships are on a England and Italy. Sleady course. Thus the four or five

"Until about forty years ago the Map showing the range of the Queen Elizabeth as compared with the defences of New York harbor. Estimated by her performance at the Dardanelles, she could stand off out of range of the guns of Forts Hancock, Wadsworth and Hamilton and bombard the city as far north as Forty-second street.

hem safe You then believe that we should they are of the highest type of the upset our whele scheme of naval gov- professional. "With a body of men of such proernment?" I inquired.

sufficiently familiar with your naval folly for the United States not to leave serve the results of their own fire.

take or reject expert advice, then your board of civilians, recently appendix general belief of naval men is that navy is governed by principles which by Secretary Daniels and having general belief of naval men is that Thomas A. Edison as chairman?" the aeroplane is less efficient than the may be fatal to your naval efficiency. Thomas A. Edison as chairman?" the aeroplane is less 1 do not say that they are certain to "By no means. I have read with airship as a scout.

more professional than national and search for submarines which after-they are of the highest type of the ward have been pursued by surface craft, and, second, 'spotting' the fall of

shot where ships have been bom-"I am not willing to say that I be- fessional accomplishments and of the barding the shore under conditions heve exactly that, because I am not highest morale, it seems to me to be making it impossible for them to ob-

government to excuse the expression of a positive opinion on my part. "If your plan of naval government makes your civilian Secretary free to take or reject expert advice, then your Board of Civilians, recently appointed as I have been able to ascertain, the

do not say that they are certain to e fatal to it, but I surely do say that that body, and I am strongly of opin-air or on the sea, the unit employed "So long as you have a statesman ion that if your navy be under strictly must be able to maintain itself for at the head who fully appreciates the professional control you will find that considerable periods,

fact that his sole business must be to the naval officers will prove very easer "If an aeroplane can work efficiently interpret the requirements and advige to avail themselves of the expert only by daylight, if it can remain in of professional seamen to his Govern- knowledge and marked inventive skill, the air for a short time only, say ment and Congress, and who, having of trained civilians." five, six or even seven hours, then thus got the money which those sea- "Do you agree with those who think its value for scouting purposes is infive, six or even seven hours, then

men ask for, sees that they apply that that this Naval Consulting Board of calculably inferior to that even of money in the best way in accordance civilians should have at its disposal a fast water surface cruisers, which can with their own carefully worked out very complete experimental labora- spend six or seven days at sea, in

ideas, your system may work out tory?" I asked. spite of the much greater area of "Most emphatically," said Mr. Pol- vision of the observer in the aerowithout disaster. "But the day you put in charge of len, "as long as one principle is ob- plane.

KULTUR STRONG CULTURE. EVEN But those | try where the population increases lit- | tors, like her manufacturers and busi- | France or other nations. By ALPHONSE AULARD,

remained in action for Professor of the History of the French Revolution at the

University of Paris.

each belligerent as shown by his pre-vious activity. Now among neutrals there are many people, even of Francophile tendencies, who are struck by the inferiority of France to Germany

themselves if there is not some connection between the economic strength and the form of government of these

order of things to her despotic mon-

Is the true reason rather that ous statistics about population and than with her physical well being. She itual and moral services to other ideal of physical well being and those commerce may all hide the most ex- has given more honor to her learned nations? ites effective fighting at the Falk- France is in a condition of decadence? and Islands was spread over three and I am a Frenchman myself, so I lack

party at the same time who say that France is decadent say the, where political struggles are bit- ness men, to whom neverthless she has set herself up in the form of a the same thing of the other Latin nations, and with an even greater badly done, may nevertheless have a esteem.

University of Paris. F one wishes to make conjectures in regard to the result of the these Latin nations, Italy, has during present war it is natural that one should seek to measure the marvellous degree of practical will and You ask why France is not on

in economic, commercial, industrial, best basis for judging its merit, its she has preferred another ideal.

military and in general all practical degree of vigor, its genius, its role in the world. In a recent remarkable industry, commerce, and all that is performed to which she has devoted it is certain that we French have These people seek an explanation of article the Italian historian Ferrero physical in the life of a nation, France herself? No, certainly not. leading nature of the deductions drawn lie to the German Empire. They ask ception, which measures progress the same degree the preference for ous and more fortunate than ever bemerely in terms of increase of wealth and of all that serves to produce wealth, men and tools. He wrote in She has given herself the political and intervention of the spiritual side of national life. She has given herself the political and intervention of the spiritual side of national life. She has given herself the political and intervention of the spiritual side of national life. She has given herself the political and intervention of the spiritual side of national life. She has given herself the political and intervention of the dermans, in suppos-

streets, the cleanliness of railway sta- more than her body. She has been say that the least decadent nations are

Since she idealistic-that one must judge na- points from which they start, though tions by the same principles that one bomb dropping is obviously a large judges individuals.

of equilibrium and salvation." cover whether she is less vigorous and thought and art. Now, since the reign You ask why France is not one of less fortunate than in the past with of the present Emperor, who are her degree of physical and moral vigor of productive force; her recent economic the countries which have employed respect to the realization of her own poets, painters, sculptors, musicians,

What we must ask ourselves is tion of physical well being, toward of another nation, and above all of an self over to physical well being she has whether the economic achievement material results. It is because France' inferior ideal, such as the increase become incapable of producing other of a nation offers the only or even the has not wished to do so; it is because of material well being. Now can one Goethes, Kants, Beethovens, Wagners. say that France to-day realizes to a It seems that as regards beauty her

These people seek an explanation of article the Italian historian Ferrero physical in the life of a nation, France has always had and has still and to has always had and has still and to has preparation, in making too few can-

To return to my comparison hetions, and the coldest and most seri- more preoccupied with her spiritual chose which render the greatest spir- tween a nation which follows solely an

which follow a spiritual and moral moral force. We are not only a pco- be looked upon as that sort of pre-

out of consideration, as not strictly naval, the employment of scroplanes for bomb dropping, even though those accoplanes be taken by ships to the

and obvious field for aircraft, and

"In making this statement I leave

Well, can one judge of the condition though aeroplanes were successfully of progress or decadence of an indi-ridual solely on the basis of his eco-nomic strength? Is it only the suc-the time of the raid upon Cuxhaven. essful manufacturer, business man, In essence these were purely military farmer, who merits being considered operations, not essentially differing visorous? Is he the unique type or from those in which all the Powers development has excited the admira-tion of all serious observers. The relative realization of the ideal is the relativ

learned men represent this genius just "But before this war began every as well? Can one not say, even, that one hoped and almost every one bethey represent it better, since they lieved that the aeroplane would be of express its highest and noblest ele-ments? fleet. I do not think the war has ments?

If one of these artists does not justified these hopes, but I recognize know how to get rich can one say the fact that at any moment new therefore that he has fallen into de- developments in aircraft may entirely cadence?

change the situation. "Until means have been found of What one cannot say of individuals one should not say of nations given keeping the heavier than air machines over to liberty, social and moral prog- a long time in the air the Zeppelin the Paris T_{cmps} of March 8, 1916: "A nation and a civilization are not only in monarchical and imperial regimes had by this fack of prudence showed that our or to protect themselves against the of great value and I cannot but believe archy? Are France's institutions of great value and inferiority? But the ex-use which file ack of prudence showed that our or to protect themselves against the of great value and I cannow of the function o

French during the present war. It a real necessity of defensive operahows that our physical force is no tions, but, more importantly, a detail more decayed that our piritual and of preparation which rightfully may

I am a Frenchinan myself, so I lack traordinary condition of delirium in a men, her poets, for artists, her spir-authority to reply to a question which whole people, a people infatuated with itual and moral benefactors of hu-concerns me as judge and as interested ; cupidity and pride. Likewise, a coun- manity, than to her material benefac-is at the same stage of progress as tant time when Germany was nobly coldiers.