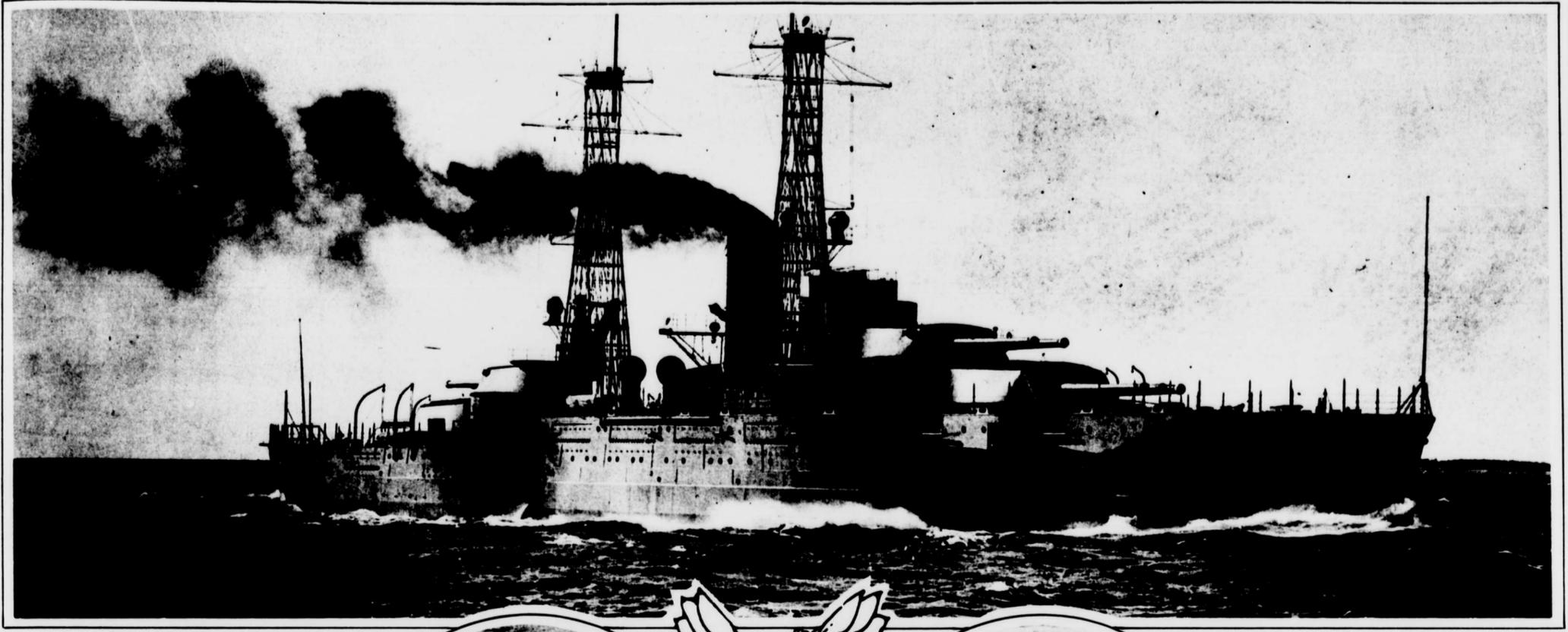


SPEED TRIALS FOR UNCLE SAM'S NEWEST SEA FIGHTERS



THE NEVADA, THE NAVY'S LATEST AND GREATEST BATTLESHIP.

AS SHE APPEARED ON HER OFFICIAL TEST OFF ROCKLAND, ME.
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Superdreadnought Nevada's Successful Run Points Lesson in Preparedness

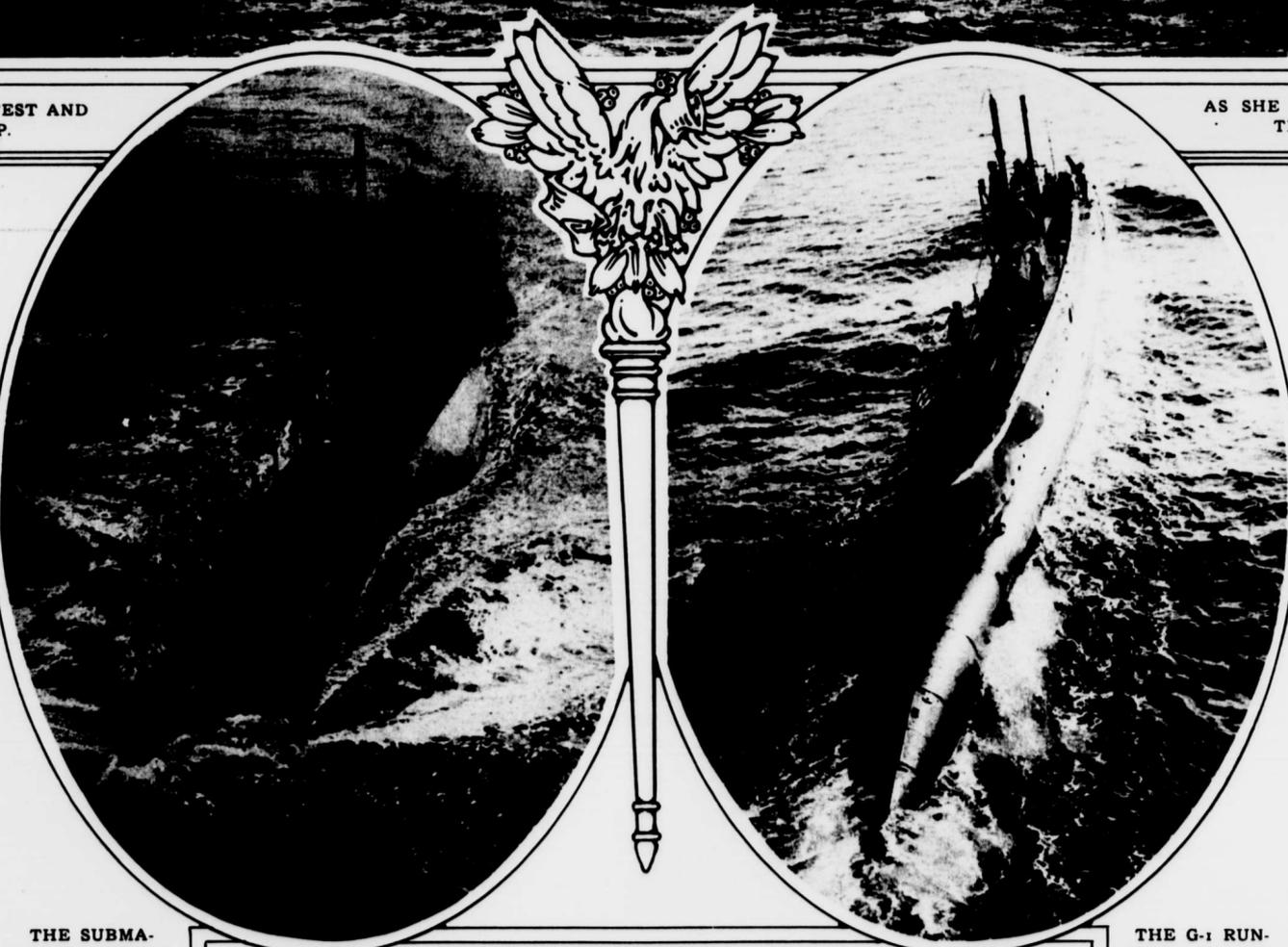
THOSE that were fortunate enough to see her must have been thrilled by the sight of the superdreadnought Nevada as she tore through the water upon her record making run. Just picture, if you can, a navigable fortress weighing nearly 28,000 tons pushing her way through tumbling seas at the rate of twenty-one knots an hour. This means going at a clip close to 24.25 statute miles an hour. Isn't it comforting to think that the United States navy has such a formidable craft—a ship that could, undoubtedly, hold her own against any single antagonist afloat to-day?

And yet there is a fly in the ointment. One ship doesn't make a sufficient navy, be she ever so big and formidable, and experts say that the United States navy needs a score at least of dreadnoughts like the Nevada, not to mention other battle craft of the first line of defence. So eminent an authority as Rear Admiral Frank E. Beatty, commandant of the Norfolk Navy Yard, recently declared that the United States is unprepared for war, and would not be able to hold her own at the present rate of naval increment for years to come. As new ships are built the older vessels become obsolete. Measured by the standards established by the present war, there are battleships in the service to-day that should be relegated to the second line of defence, and yet they have lately been described as efficient units of the first line.

Only last May Rear Admiral Beatty commanded the Red or enemy fleet in the naval war game, and he outmaneuvered and won a victory over the Blue fleet defending our shores. Of course this was largely a theoretical achievement but nevertheless was based upon some indisputable facts. Speaking of that mimic war test, Rear Admiral Beatty said: "This alone proved that the coast is not adequately protected. We landed, theoretically, 20,000 men on the shores of Lynnhaven Bay, which could have been followed within four days by 100,000 additional troops." But since these manoeuvres another object lesson has been presented.

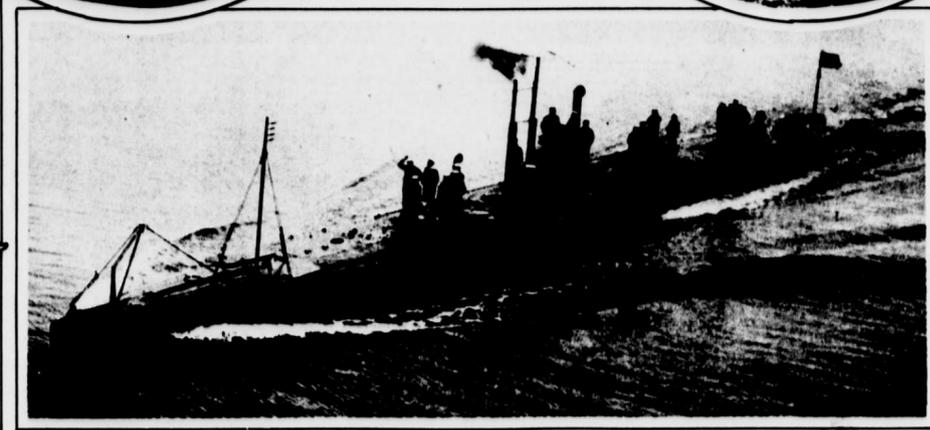
The Navy Department, feeling that perhaps mere chance had turned the tables in favor of the make-believe invaders, ordered a second war game, which was carried out during the first half of October; but once more it was brought home to the authorities that our coast is really open to an aggressive and powerful foe. The last game shifted the point of attack; the enemy did not try to repeat his success in effecting an entrance into the Chesapeake and a landing there. Instead Boston was the objective, and the aim was to capture that city by simulating a main attack upon the coast defences of that port while accomplishing a landing of troops elsewhere so that the city could be taken on the flank and rear.

By reason of his superior speed and the scout ships at his disposal the Admiral of the Reds was able to elude the defending Blue squadrons and to deceive the widely scattered force possessed by Admiral Frank F. Fletcher. Accordingly the enemy ships reached Boston before the mobile defence could be hurried there for its succor, and while engaging the forts with only a part of his capital ships the Admiral of the Reds covered with the rest of his fleet an imaginary landing of a large invading force to the eastward of the Massachusetts capital, Col. W.



THE SUBMARINE E-1 DURING A RECENT TEST.
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THE G-1 RUNNING AT TOP UNDER FULL SPEED.
Copyright American Press Association.



THE G-4 IN A SMOOTH SEA. THE NAVY HAS ESTABLISHED A NEW SUBMARINE BASE AT NEW LONDON, CONN., WHERE FREQUENT TESTS OF UNDERSEA BOATS ARE MADE
Copyright American Press Association.

Rear Admiral Beatty Emphasizes Need of Strong First Line of Defence

G. Haan, who commanded the seven forts constituting the permanent defences of Boston, said in effect that the batteries were too close to the city to guard it effectually from bombardment and that for the proper defence of Boston the sea-coast guns should cover a strategic area of far greater reach.

This means primarily that the naval weapon is superior in range to the rifles which the army has placed in our coast batteries, and therefore our immediate security lies in the line of defence which the national fleet should be able to interpose between our shores and the squadrons of an oncoming enemy. Just take an atlas and scale off the extent of our coast line and it will be evident that the navy must be greatly enlarged if it is to be able to guard against surprise and to hold the foe at bay no matter how fast he may move or how large may be the force that he can bring to bear against us. The modern battle line, and by this term is meant the whole system of mobile defence, calls for numerous units of varied sorts. This is necessary in order that the superdreadnought may do the work which is peculiarly its own, that of either attacking the enemy in his own waters or of meeting him many hundreds of miles away and bringing him to battle there.

As the principal naval actions of the present war have disclosed, the battle cruisers have a very important part to play. They fill a special place in the modern battle line, and no other craft is capable of performing certain of their distinctive functions. The United States navy needs battle cruisers—a goodly number of them. Then in order that the superdreadnoughts may be better able to do their work each battleship should be supported by at least four satellites in the shape of torpedo boat destroyers, and these craft should be big enough to be seaworthy in a heavy gale and capable of making under trying conditions a speed of thirty knots an hour. Again, for each dreadnought there should be an equivalent of two submarines, and these should be of a seagoing type, possessing wide radius of action and able to make at least twenty knots an hour.

The United States navy is weak in submarines. The last manoeuvres taxed these boats to the utmost. The men aboard of them handled the craft with skill, but it was plain that even the biggest of the submarines could not be counted upon in time of need to do what this order of fighting machine is doing abroad. The navy requires submarines of greater tonnage even for the immediate defence of the coast, to say nothing of the work out of the so-called seagoing submarines. Speed and plucky of it has been the deciding factor in favor of the naval victors, and the faster your enemy moves the further off shore he must be intercepted in order to keep him from reaching his goal or breaking through the inner defensive ring. Proper preparedness, therefore, the authorities say, requires that the best of the submarines built and in process of construction for the United States navy should be relegated to harbor defence and that a flotilla of larger submarines of the most improved type and widest radius of action should be created as soon as possible.

These are conclusions that the war games of the present year have demonstrated. The authorities say further that there is need of a balanced fleet as well as a large one, and an organization of this sort consists properly not only of fighting ships but also of auxiliary craft of several different kinds. There must be supply vessels carrying food, others with stores of powder and shell, and colliers and tankers capable of furnishing ample fuel for the active squadrons when operating far from a shore base. There must be hospital ships for the speedy transfer of the wounded from the fighting craft and transports ever ready to make up any deficiencies of the personnel of the various units.