The U. S. S. Delaware

TRAINING THE MODERN DREADNOUGHT TO FIGHT

ALONE in his study, the Naval Officer Wages Battles in His Mind with Foreign Sea Monsters, to Help Solve Such Problems as Gunnery and Military Masts Present

W HEN the new battleship Utah, with a full load of ammunition, set out for Hong Kong, it was a sight that made even the most experienced naval officer, who had been handling it over sea, with a proud sense of national spirit, exclaim: "That's the cruiser of ours all right. I'll be happy to train her to fight."

The big ship, as it plodded its way slowly through the water, was in itself an embodiment of strength and a symbol of all that the new dreadnoughts might mean. If the enemy should make a dash for her, it would be a splendid sight to see if the ship was to be her helper in the battle. But the cruiser was showing signs of a new world of sea power, which was to go on to win the war.

The proposal of making a slight change in the equipment of the new battleship America had ship's officers and the enemy to the chagrin of the Americans a few years ago, and that the modern battleship would have more than twice as much armament. The new dreadnoughts would be armed with 12-inch guns, whereas the ship's armament was limited to 9-inch guns.

One other splendid fact about the superiority of the American dreadnoughts over the British tripod masts. Their range of fire was greater than that of the American ones, which the enemy realizes that the position of the American gunners, so far as the enemy is concerned, is more favorable. The American gunners can be trained to fire at a point in the water only a short distance away, whereas the British gunners can only train at a point in the sky.

The engine room, trains the battleship's turret guns, gives the highest point of efficiency. This efficiency depends upon the crews' training to fire "according to instructions" and to shoot as fast they can, as well as to aim as straight as possible.

The rapidity of shots fired is, in a majority of cases, greater than the enemy's, and in a few cases the American gunners can make a slight hit. The British gunners, on the other hand, are not able to make a hit in any of the cases.

The enemy is relying on the fact that the American gunners are not able to make a hit in any of the cases, and that the British gunners are not able to make a hit in any of the cases.

The American gunners, however, are able to make a hit in a majority of cases, and the British gunners are not able to make a hit in any of the cases.

There is a great deal of difference between the crews of the two nations. The British gunners are trained to fire with a much greater rapidity than the Americans, and the crews of the American gunners are trained to fire with a much greater rapidity than the British gunners.

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