MAN OF ACTION HEADS OUR FIGHTING FLEET

Admiral Mayo, in command of the American battle squadrons on the Atlantic, recognized in the navy as a keen thinker and strategist, but little known outside the service until his work at Tampico made him an international figure.

In the San Francisco Corral the white toddler who was carried in arms by his mother after the Mexican betrayal, the boy who joined his father in the war and the boy who, as his father, later filled his shoes in the navy, is today an admiral and the commander-in-chief of the American battle fleets. The admiral's mother, who lives in the home of the old shipyard in San Francisco, has been visited by her son for the first time in many years, and she is told that he will come to her home for the war's end.

The task of holding the nation's first line of defense the most difficult ever entrusted to a naval commander owing to the length of the coast line he has to guard. The ships he leads range from super-dreadnoughts to little submarine chasers.

The last conference between the admiral and his staff was at the office of his secretary. The meeting took place on April 15, 1917, the day before the war began. The admiral was in the office for a meeting with the secretary of war, and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The admiral had been in the office for about an hour and a half when the telephone rang. It was the office of the secretary of war, and the admiral was told that the war had begun.

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