

**THE NAVY IN
MESOPOTAMIA
1914 TO 1917**

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The navy in Mesopotamia 1914 to 1917 by Conrad Cato

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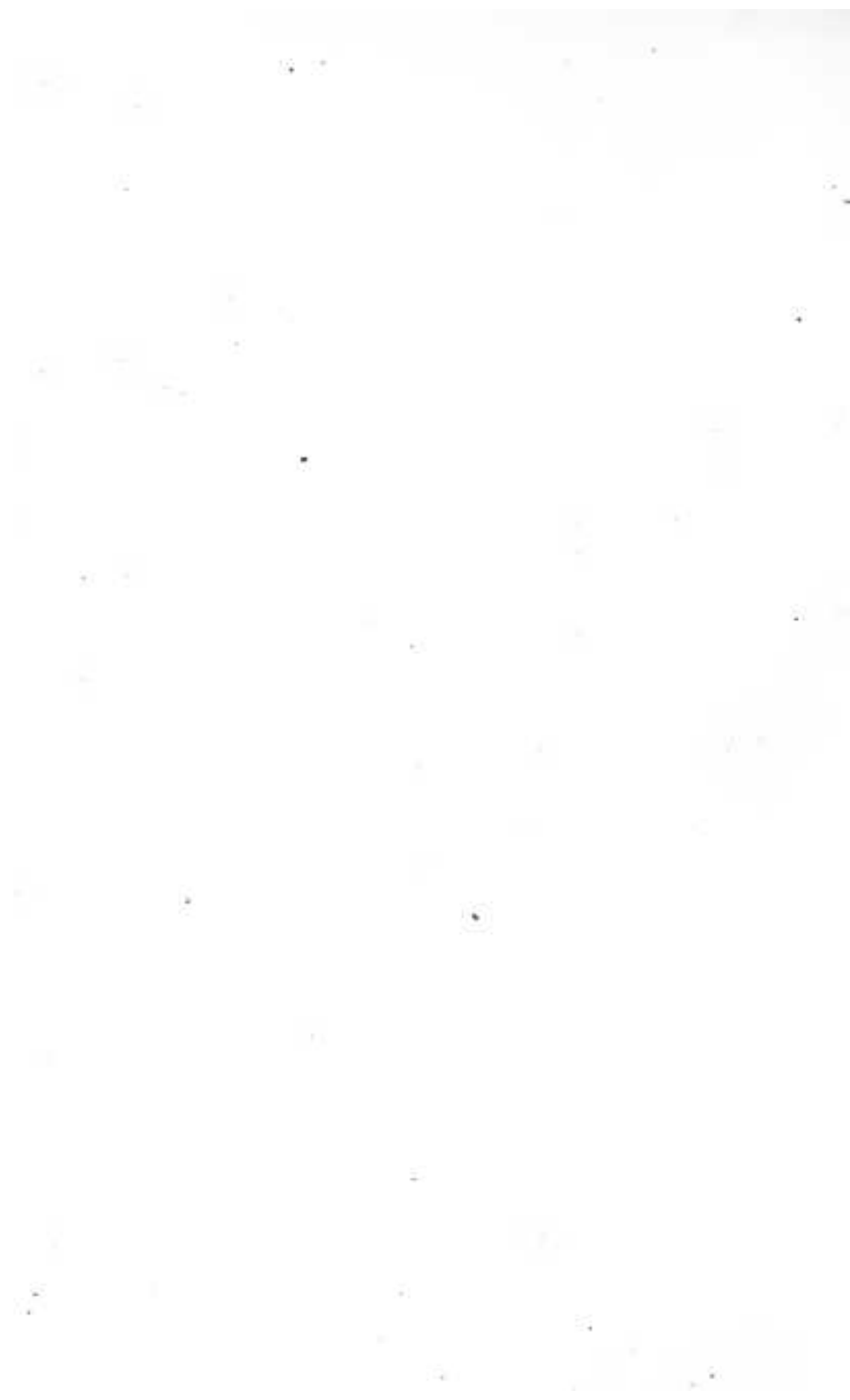
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TO
CAPTAIN CATHCART R. WASON, R.N., C.M.G.

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED,
IN MEMORY OF THE TWO HAPPY YEARS
DURING WHICH THE AUTHOR WAS PRIVILEGED TO
SERVE UNDER HIS COMMAND



PREFACE

IN writing these historical sketches of naval work in Mesopotamia, I have been guided by the evidence of naval officers who took part in the events narrated, and in some instances I have myself been an eyewitness. In every case I have checked these unofficial accounts by referring to the official despatches, and I hope that in this way I have succeeded in guarding against inaccuracy. It must be understood that my object has been to give some slight indication of the work which has been done by the Navy in the course of the campaign; and though I have necessarily alluded to the military operations, I have made no attempt to give a complete account of any of the engagements so far as the Army was concerned in them. The sketch entitled "The Children of Kanec" was originally written as a yarn, but, inasmuch as it records an incident which actually befell one of H.M. sloops on the Tigris, I have included it among the historical sketches.

As regards the short stories, their main object is to amuse the reader; but if they fail in this, they will at least give a little insight into naval life in Mesopotamia. They are all entirely fictitious, except the one called "The Art of Diplomacy,"