

THE CURTAIN OF STEEL

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The curtain of steel by Montague Thomas Hainsselin

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MONTAGUE THOMAS HAINSSSELIN

**THE CURTAIN OF
STEEL**

The
Curtain of Steel

BY THE

AUTHOR OF

IN THE NORTHERN MISTS
GRAND FLEET DAYS
NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

HODDER AND STOUGHTON
LONDON NEW YORK TORONTO

1581
H 18

TO THE
ADMINISTRATOR

PREFACE

HERE we have a Long Naval Film, in Six Reels, and every single one of the pictures is photographed from life.

Excepting, of course, the shortest reel of the six, the one which is called *The Curtain Raised*; that, happily, is untrue, every word of it, and even the setting in which the story is told is pure fiction. But I put it in as the best I could do to try and show what would happen if there wasn't any British Navy. I know it is rather a feeble effort, but you can let your own imagination do the rest.

But while all the other pictures are really quite true, the portraits are all of them faked. I want to make this very clear indeed, because there are lots of people who when they read a book of this kind think they can recognise their own photographs. Well, they needn't think so here, because all the faces that appear on the film, like all the names, are "made up out of my own head."

Preface

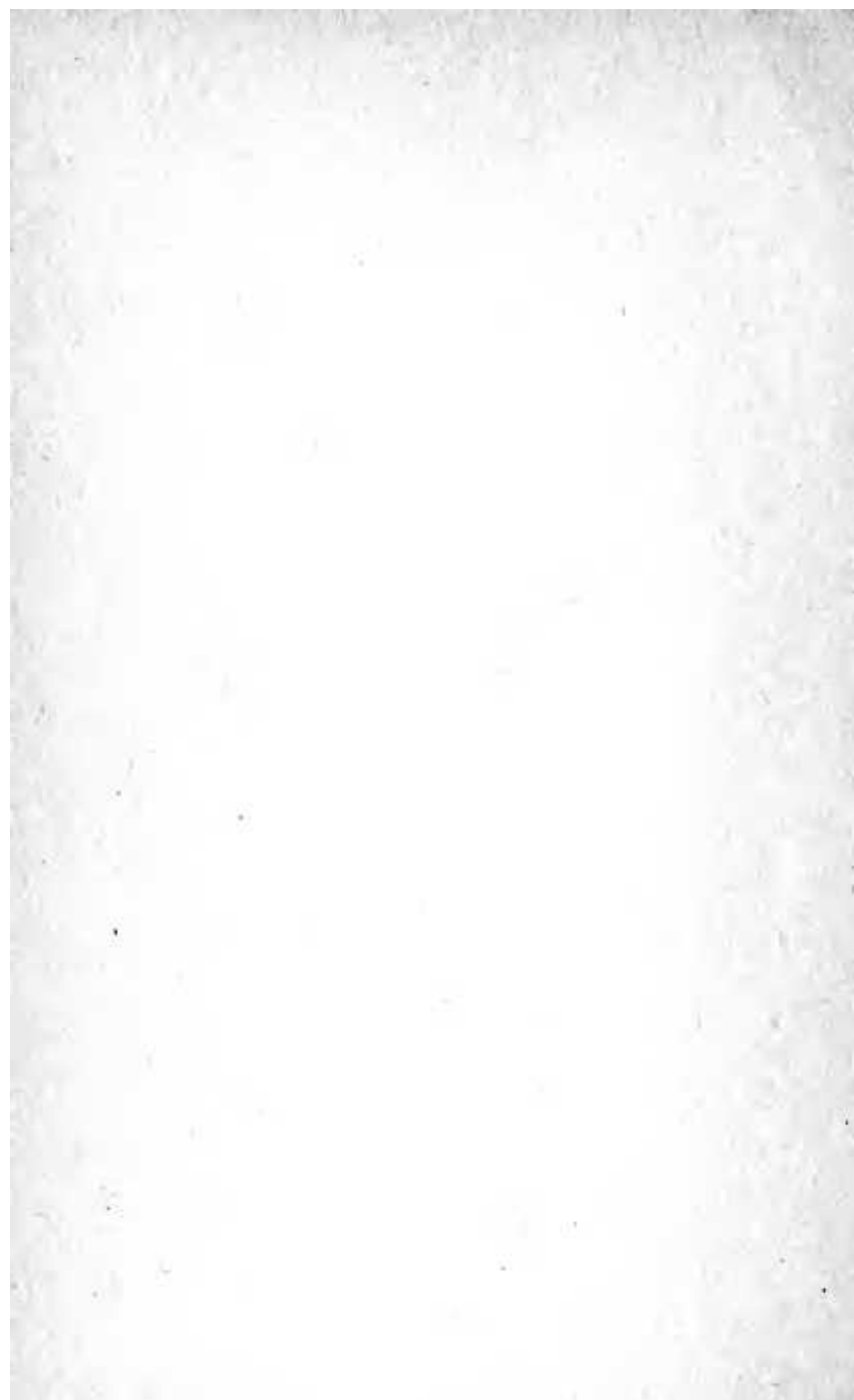
Of course, it is impossible, I suppose, to avoid altogether making what is termed a "composite portrait" when trying to invent the characters in a book; memories of different people one has known, traits and features picked out one here and another there and pieced together must inevitably furnish the raw material, and the source of such separate constituents may sometimes be recognised. But, taking the completed characters as they stand, nobody means anybody—to put it elegantly and tersely.

There is only one part-exception where one man's face stands out rather more clearly from the others with which it is blended; it is the face of a good man, and I hope I have written nicely about him.

So now we know exactly where we are, and let's begin!

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I. The Lowering of the Curtain
