COMRADES OF THE MIST AND OTHER RHYMES OF THE GRAND FLEET

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649402298

Comrades of the Mist and Other Rhymes of the Grand Fleet by Eugene E. Wilson

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

www.triestepublishing.com

EUGENE E. WILSON

COMRADES OF THE MIST AND OTHER RHYMES OF THE GRAND FLEET

Trieste

COMRADES OF THE MIST

Comrades of the Mist

and other

Rhymes of the Grand Fleet

by

LIEUT. COMDR. EUGENE E. WILSON
U. S. NAVY

NEW YORK
GEORGE SULLY AND COMPANY
[1919]

DEDICATION.

To our "Comrades of the Mist"—the officers and men of the British Grand Fleet, this volume is affectionately dedicated.

E. E. W.

FOREWORD

Many of the verses in this volume appeared first in the weekly newspaper of the United States Ship ARKANSAS at a time when she was attached to the Sixth Battle Squadron of the Grand Fleet. This squadron was under the command of Rear Admiral Hugh Rodman, U. S. N., familiarly known as "Old AC6" (Admiral Commanding Sixth Battle Squadron), who flew his flag on the NEW YORK. The remaining ships were the WYOMING, FLORIDA and TEXAS, making a crack squadron of America's best. This squadron constituted one of the units of the Grand Fleet under Admiral Sir David Beatty, R. N. and shared with the British the long vigil in the North Sea. When not steaming on one duty or another, the fleet was based either at Scapa Flow, in the Orkney Islands, or on Rosyth, in the Firth of Forth, Scotland.

One of the most difficult problems of the whole campaign consisted in keeping the crews fit in spite of the enforced long stay aboard ship. The weekly paper, the ARKLIGHT, was one of the sources of amusement for all hands. This little sheet was unique in that practically everything published was written on board. None of the contributions were signed and the authors were often unknown even to the staff. In order that it might be sent through the mails the paper had to comply with the censorship regulations, yet it

was possible for one who knew how, to read between the lines and guess what was going on. Perhaps the best indication of the character of the paper is found in the heading of one of the issues which reads as follows:

THE ARKLIGHT.

Founded sometime A. D. 1918.

Published weekly on board the U. S. S. ARKANSAS

Our motto:

"Distemper Intemus," meaning *"We should worry."*

Subscription Rates:

One year.....Nothing
Six months.....Nothing and a half
Three months .....Less than nothing

We print no liquor or patent medicine advertisements. The ARKLIGHT has the greatest unpaid subscription of any newspaper east of Greenwich and north of Fifty-five.

All manuscripts must be submitted with the authors full name. We cannot publish articles signed "K. C. B.", "B. L. T." etc.

Entered at the ARKANSAS postoffice as the worst class of mail matter.

PASSED BY CENSOR.

In collecting these verses, the names of the authors have been ascertained and are given

under the titles where possible. After months in the North Sea I feel capable of assuming the responsibility for the others no matter how reckless it may seem.

It is hoped that these rhymes, by reflecting some of the spirit of the Grand Fleet, may help to bring out of its self-imposed obscurity Britain's splendid "Silent Service."

E. E. W.