

**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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CONRAD CATO

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MESOPOTAMIA,
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THE NAVY IN MESOPOTAMIA

1914 TO 1917

By CONRAD CATO

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LONDON
CONSTABLE AND COMPANY LTD.

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 Kanee" 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."

which is founded on fact; and this appears to me sufficient justification in itself for its inclusion in the series. The principal characters introduced are also quite imaginary, but in certain cases I must admit that my imagination has been aided by very pleasant memories of the good fellows I met in Mesopotamia.

CONRAD CATO.

LONDON,

July, 1917.

CONTENTS

PART I.—FACT

	PAGE
" WILKEY " - - - - -	3
THE CHILDREN OF KANEE - - - - -	13
AN AMPHIBIOUS ENGAGEMENT - - - - -	31
THE TAKING OF NASIRIYAH - - - - -	47
THE MAN AND THE AXE - - - - -	61
THE RETREAT FROM CTESIPHON - - - - -	75
A FORLORN HOPE - - - - -	89
THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA - - - - -	103

PART II.—FICTION

THE ART OF DIPLOMACY - - - - -	121
UNMIXED BATHING - - - - -	131
THE FORWARD OBSERVING OFFICER - - - - -	147
A MESOPOTAMIAN PICNIC - - - - -	157
A LOWER DECK EPISODE - - - - -	171
THE ORDEAL OF LOCHINVAR - - - - -	187
KNIGHTS ERRANT - - - - -	201