

LATITUDINE OF TIME FIELDS

By JAMES MORGAN
Author of "Twenty Thousand Miles in the Path of Napoleon."

THE POWER OF THE SEA IN THE WAR

How England won the Trident and How She Has Held It for More Than 200 Years—How She Has Planted Herself at the Gateways of the Seas and Gathered in a Third of the Earth's Dry Land—The Spirit of the First Challenge—Her Since Trafalgar—The Grim Game of Starve Out.

Mr. Morgan today tells the wonderful story of England's long control of the seas, which she has held for more than 200 years. He shows how she has planted herself at the gateways of the seas and gathered in a third of the earth's dry land. He tells the story of the first challenge to her supremacy and how she has since then held it. He shows how she has won the Trident and how she has held it for more than 200 years. He tells the story of the Grim Game of Starve Out.

The rock of Gibraltar, as it rises 1,400 feet from the waters, is the loftiest and most majestic of war monuments. It is at once the trophy and symbol of England's conquest of the seas.

When a ship crossing the Atlantic in the last stage of her voyage to Gibraltar, she sometimes sails through a clear night the twinkling light of Cape St. Vincent, where the horizon bends to the Portuguese headland, off that cape on St. Valentine's Day in 1757 an English fleet defeated a Spanish and won control of the Mediterranean.

As the trans-Atlantic vessel draws nearer still to where the Pillars of Hercules stand like gate posts between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, the breakers are seen rolling upon the sandy beach of Cape Trafalgar. In sight of that stretch of Spanish shore France and Spain lowered their allied flags to the British conqueror in 1805 and acknowledged his supremacy on all the seas.

Unchallenged for a Century. Thereafter for 103 years Britannia ruled the waves without a foe rising to dispute her dominion. Steam succeeded sail; iron supplanted wood; ships and weapons underwent a complete revolution. Yet, without firing a shot to defend it, England maintained unquestioned her sovereignty of the waters and the air. When Germany challenged the victor of Trafalgar.

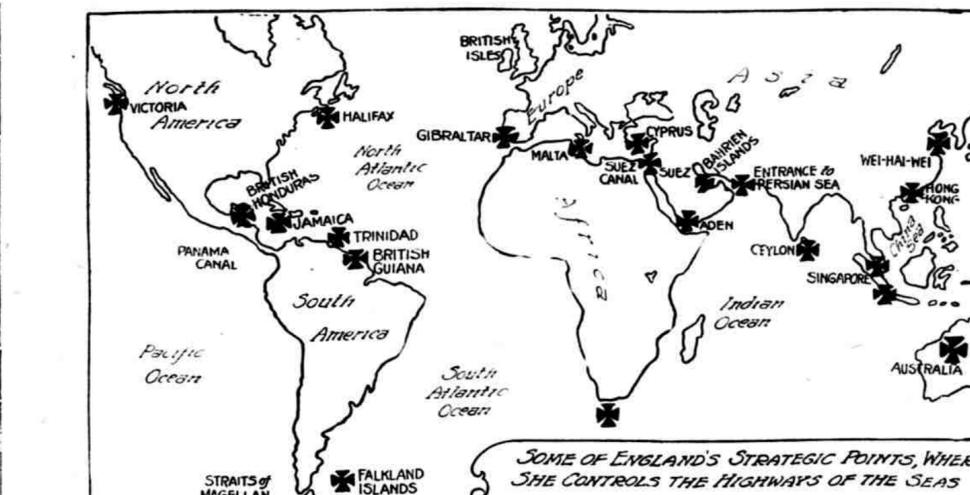
It is true the mistress of the seas did not remain wholly unassailed through that century and more. She fought the United States in 1812, but the naval engagements in that war generally were combats between single ships and never between squadrons. She also joined virtually all the other European powers against Russia in 1854, but the war was limited to the Black Sea and the Baltic. Her only real maritime and naval struggle came merely from Trafalgar. It really began fully 100 years before, and it was not until 1805 that it was finally and conclusively settled. Britannia, therefore, has securely sat her tossing throne for more than two centuries.

From Troy to London. The Trident of sea power, as it has passed from hand to hand, ever has been borne on before in the advancing march of civilization. Yet its true importance remained to be explained and established by the late Rear Admiral Mahan of the American navy only a quarter of a century ago, when, in 1890 he published a series of lectures, delivered by him as president of the United States Naval War College, in which he developed and expounded for the first time the "immense determining influence" of sea power upon the history of the world. The modest officer, then a captain, was astonished to find himself hailed as a discoverer of a great historical secret, and he blushed beneath the laurels which were bestowed upon him by Harvard and Yale, Oxford and Cambridge, and other universities.

When history first opened her eyes upon the ceaseless struggles of mankind, she saw the Phoenician caravens roving the length of the Mediterranean and even to the Indian Ocean. In the days of Phoenicia's degeneracy and her subservience to the conquering Greeks, she saw the way paved to the Greeks in 480 B. C. at the battle of Salamis, after which the Persians were driven out of the Aegean in their war with Greece.

Next island rose to cast its shadow upon the waters for centuries. The cross was upheld on the seas chiefly by the valiant sailors of a few Italian towns, Venice, Genoa, Pisa and Amalfi waxing into great maritime powers. The freedom of the water highways, however, never was fully won by Christians until 1571, when the Spaniards and Italians vanquished the Turk at Lepanto.

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SOME OF ENGLAND'S STRATEGIC POINTS, WHERE SHE CONTROLS THE HIGHWAYS OF THE SEAS



THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR, WHERE ENGLAND LAST WAS CHALLENGED BEFORE THE PRESENT WAR



THE ADMIRALTY, LONDON, WHERE BRITANNIA RULES THE WAVE

When at last England had immured Napoleon at St. Helena in the midst of the hostile waters, she resumed her triumphant march on the waves, where no enemy rose in her conquering path until after the lapse of a century, when another emperor sought another empire called a halt. Her victory over Napoleon brought her 100 years of immunity even to the seas. Her victory over Napoleon brought her nearly seventy years of security, for there was no serious challenge to her supremacy between the war of the Spanish succession and the war of the American Revolution.

The Despot of the Wave. At the outset she wisely sacrificed her island to the sea, and she gave herself wholly to the task of controlling the sea and gaining a great empire. She had to do this, for she already she had Holland at her mercy. At the first sign of the Spanish Revolution she sent a fleet to Spain to support the Bourbon king, and she swiftly smashed the infant fleet and next she caused the dockyards of Spain to be razed to the ground. She then instantly she whirled on Peter the Great, who had moved up from Moscow to Petrograd, where, as she said, the British fleet appeared in the Baltic and threatened the Russian shipyards with the fate of the Spanish.

The Arbitrator of the Land. Thus by sea power alone the 60th part of the habitable globe has possessed itself of a full third of the earth. Nor does it matter that a half of that tiny fraction of our sphere, which we call the United Kingdom, is unproductive and much of a remaining half is left to the deer and the sheep. For England sits on the waters and gathers her golden crops from their remotest shores. It is the choicest humor of history that while a little island was subjugating the seas and restlessly picking up land by the million square miles, the continental nations were forever scrambling among themselves over worthless baubles in an exhausting war of dynamic succession or cutting one another's throats over Alsace-Lorraine, the division of Poland and other comparatively trivial objects.

The Gatekeeper of the Seas. The voyager around the world never escapes from the shadow of England's fortresses drawn about the globe like a chain. Pass out of her own gateway between the Channel and the ocean and go to the threshold of the Mediterranean. There, like a lion, stands her rock of Gibraltar, which she flched from her Spanish ally in 1704 and which she has looped until it resembles the top of a pepper shaker. Another gate she has seized upon the shores of the Straits of Messina, or go round through the Southern Straits, and another gate she has looped until it resembles the top of a pepper shaker.



GIBRALTAR, THE TROPHY AND SYMBOL OF BRITAIN'S CONQUEST OF THE SEAS



NELSON, DYING BUT VICTORIOUS BEING LOWERED INTO THE COCKPIT OF THE "VICTORY"

England even transferred Heligoland to Germany as late as 1890; but Wilhelm wanted that key to the Elbe and the yet incomplete Kiel Canal only for a biological station. It should be remembered that no longer ago than 1898 the German navy stood in a humble and harmless relation of one to six in comparison with the British.

The Tyrant of the Seas. I have attempted hurriedly to summarize the history of motives and actions, not to deduce their effects. This, however, is only a bare outline of the course pursued by England to make herself the tyrant of the seas and establish her dominion over the world. It is not an effort to explore the consequences of Britannia's absolute rule of the wave, but to show how she has done it. The sea has been free as nature made them and become a great common, across which nations shall pass equal and unimpeded. It is an awkward contemporary fact, however, that two of the ablest and most ambitious peoples in the world, the British and the Japanese, are islanders. Naval disarmament, therefore, would leave them helpless in the presence of the other nations of the world.

The Strategic Problem. In one important respect the strategic problem is extremely simple for the British navy. When she had France for a foe she had to control the Channel and the Mediterranean. With Germany confronting her she has only two coasts. Thus far she has abandoned one of these, that of the Baltic, because the Kiel Canal has the effect of permitting the German fleet to operate at will either in the Baltic or the Atlantic. The British, therefore, have not yet ventured to divide and attempt to establish their control in the lesser sea.

Urging Upon Germany. True to her instincts, England turned upon Germany the moment she detected in that new empire a symptom of maritime rivalry. Traditionally Germany was her friend and for centuries she had almost invariably allied herself with the Germans in their struggles. She alone stood by Frederick the Great. But Prussia had no ports on the Atlantic coast and there was no German navy or German merchant marine.

As times as many as 300 merchant ships were gathered together within the protecting arms of the British flag and thus sailed through the danger zone. The British fleet has done well in protecting itself from submarine attacks. Its cruisers and destroyers ought to be equally efficient in convoying merchant shipping. A convoy should become a necessity. As for England's effort to shut in her island land like Germany, it is twelve years; but he had the free range of virtually the whole of Europe.

A Mysterious Power. The control of the sea exercises a mysterious power over the destinies of a nation. In the first century ago, no one, not the English themselves, understood how completely every victory of France in the past was offset, every move she made on the chessboard of Europe was checked, every step she took was nullified. Even so great a strategist as Napoleon perhaps did not always visualize the effect of the sea upon his plans. He marched out of Corsica in the first instance, and to his destiny; he marched him on a desert amidst his useless conquests in Egypt; he marched him from the walls of Acre; they blocked his way to Italy and compelled him to leap the Alps and the were drawn across his path when, with his 200,000 men, he prepared on the heights of Boulogne to plant his eagles on the Tower of London.

As he marched away to the conquest of Europe at Austerlitz, Nelson obliterated the French navy at Trafalgar. Again he was nullified just as effectively as in Egypt, although naturally in Europe he would not so quickly feel his isolation.

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