

**FULL
SPEED AHEAD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649004515

Full speed ahead by Henry B. Beston

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HENRY B. BESTON

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“A destroyer is by no means a paradise of comfort”

FULL SPEED AHEAD

Tales from the Log of a Correspondent
with Our Navy

BY
HENRY B. BESTON



GARDEN CITY NEW YORK
DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY
1919

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To
MAJOR GEORGE MAURICE SHEAHAN
HARVARD UNIT R.A.M.C.

A Forerunner of the Great Crusade.

PREFACE

These tales are memories of several months spent as a special correspondent attached to the forces of the American Navy on foreign service. Many of the little stories are personal experiences, though some are "written up" from the records and others set down after interviews. In writing them, I have not sought the laurels of an official historian, but been content to chronicle the interesting incidents of the daily life as well as the achievements and heroisms of the friends who keep the highways of the sea.

To my hosts of the United States Navy one and all, I am under deep obligation for the courtesy and hospitality everywhere extended to me on my visit. But surely the greatest of my obligations is that owed to Secretary Daniels for the personal permission which made possible my journey, and for the good will with which he saw me on my way. And no acknowledgment, no matter how

PREFACE

studied or courtly its phrasing, can express what I owe to Admiral Sims for the friendliness of my reception, for his care that I be shown all the Navy's activities, and for his constant and kindly effort to advance my work in every possible way. To Admiral Hugh Rodman of the battleship squadron, his sometime guest here renders thanks for the opportunity given him to spend some ten days aboard the American flagship and for the welcome which makes his stay aboard so pleasant a memory.

To the following officers, also, am I much indebted: Captain, now Admiral Hughes, Captain J. R. Poinsett Pringle, Chief of Staff at the Irish Base, Captain Thomas Hart, Chief of Staff directing submarine operations, Commander Babcock and Commander Daniels, both of Admiral Sims' staff, Commander Bryant and Commander Carpenter, both of Captain Pringle's staff, Commander Henry W. Cooke and Commander Wilson Brown, both of the destroyer flotilla, Lieutenant Horace H. Jalbert of the U. S. S. Bushnell, Lieutenant Commander Morton L. Deyo, Chaplain J. L. Neff, Lieutenant F. H. King,