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The Dangers and Discomforts of Torpedo Warfare; New Light Thrown on the Subject by the Japanese



naval authorities on this branch of sea warfare. For the past

few years, and especially since the Spanish-American war, experts have been rather prone to underrate these little marine hornets.

The peculiarly indented character of the coast line of Japan made this nation favor the torpedo boat from the start. Then it is possible that there is something in the character of the Jap to which these little engines of destruction make a strong appeal. At any rate this branch of the mikado's navy is well developed, not only in the number of boats, but in the efficiency with which they are handled. At the beginning of hostilities with Russia Japan had two torpedo gun vessels with five tubes each, one torpedo depot ship of over 4,000 tons and at least eighteen destroyers. These destroyers have an average displacement of about 300 tons. an average speed of thirty to thirtyone knots and carry two tubes each. In addition she possessed about eighty torpedo boats proper, the largest of which, the Kataka, has a displacement of 190 tons and carries six tubes. Her speed is not so great as some of the smaller boats, however, which only average forty or fifty tons, with two or three tubes, but which attain a speed of from twenty to twenty-six and onehalf knots. Russia, "f course, has a larger number of these craft, but not nearly all of them are in eastern waters, nor have the Slavs shown the same skill in handling these difficult

boats as have their more agile foes. The fact that the sons of Japan have exhibited a liking for torpedo warfare should not be placed to their discredit.



TORPEDO CRAFT APPROACHING BATTLESHIPS.

away does not appeal to one as the bravest or most chivalrous sort of fighting, it really requires courage and endurance of the highest order. In fact, there are less glory and more While the act of sneaking up on a foe discomfort and danger on a torpedo to be found on the larger vessels, and immense bollers and engines that are pouring upon the metal sheetings that though rather crude in its earlier

in the darkness, blowing a hole in her under the water line and scurrying away does not appeal to one as the are mere cockleshells, and, if discov-

he boat in every part. In a forms, The torpedo boat proper, here. storm the sharp prows pitch beneath ever, is a modern evolution. It was storm the sharp prows pitch beneath even is a modern evolution. It was the waves, and the men must securely only in the American civil war that it the law deck to appeared or that any war that it the waves, and the men times accurate appeared or that any really effective lash themselves on the low deck to results with torpedo attack of any sont keep from being carried overboard by results with torpedo attack of any sont the immense seas that sweep over it. Were achieved. The Confederacy made Besides, the torpedoes themselves are use of what it called the "water bonk for harbor defense and Besides, the torpedoes themserves are use or what it cannot the "water bomb" almost as dangerous to those that for harbor defense and succeeded in almost as dangerous to those that for har or belense and succeeded in handle them as to the foe against blowing up seven monitors, eleven est miscue means instant death to all and several other vessels. The est miscue means instant, the boat are so achievements led, toward the end of the on board. The sides of the ball may pierce war, to the introduction of small cath thin that even a rifle ball may pierce called "Davids," used for the small cath thin that even a rife ball may plette called "Davids," used for the launching magazine, it is all off with the little of these bombs. Before the close of the condict torned to the close of the close of

up to within 400 yards of a battleship destroying one Confederate warship up to within 409 yards of a battlessip before launching a torpedo the difficul-ty of escaping the rays of the gigantic ances and methods employed was to have important results in formation of the second s and ever moving searchlights is well have important results in future name nigh insurmountable. Even after the evolution, tube has "coughed" and the engine of Subsequent to the American civil wat destruction is on its way the greatest the torpedo has been used only in agility is required for the boat to get spasmodic way in actual fighting, but

Blowing up battleships and cruisers is not the only duty, or even the most is not the only duty, or even the most considerable duty, of a torpedo boat. Turkish war (1877-78) three Turkish Because of her speed and the fact that ships were blown up by the Russian she lies so close to the water as to In 1880 two Chilean and one Peruvia she lies so close to the water she is vessel were destroyed. Four years used for dispatch duty and for rec- later the French demolished two Chiused for dispatch duty and for the rest the tenth demonstred two the onnoissance of the enemy's position. nese ships by the use of the Spar tor-pedo. In 1891 the Blanco Encalada was destroyed in Chile by the blanco Encalada was

Robert Fulton, the inventor of the Sampaio. In the Chino-Japanese wa steamboat, or that the first serious at- three Chinese ships were torpedoed and tempts to introduce this missile of de- sunk by the Japanese. This complete struction as a recognized department of the list up to the blowing up of the bat.

less in naval warfare for a century, interest by naval experts.

wooden warships, six army transpor the conflict torpedo warfare became a The only safety lies in the evasion of recognized factor on both sides, and The only safety les in the extra steal while the Federals only succeeded is

in spite of this fact it has become destroyed in Chile by two torpets It is not generally known that the name "torpedo" was originated by the Source of Brazil by the torpedo gunbat sea fighting were made by him. Though tleship Maine in Havana harbor,

portunity to fully test the value of the GORDON B. HAYNE

Santo Domingo and Its Complications With Uncle Sam, The Island That President Grant Dreamed of Annexing



HE action of the insur-gents of Santo Do-dreams of President Grant. Indeed, it mingo in deliberately even antedates Grant, for Secretary firing on the Ameri- Seward about the time of the Alaska firing on the Ameri-can flag, killing R. C. purchase elaborated a plan looking to American possession of Santo Domingo. Johnston, a naval en- It is probable that the idea did not gineer, wounding originate in the United States, how-Charles Doctor, a bu- ever, but in the Island itself, for the gler, and otherwise committing warlike | merchant classes there have always faacts against the government of the vored an American protectorate.

United States has succeeded in raising It was doubtless due to this influence an interesting international complica- that President Baez of the Dominican tion. It will be remembered by those Republic sent a formal proposition to who have kept track of the affair that President Grant looking to the annex-





is concerned is said to be quite ideal, The land, though quite mountainous, has fertile valleys and great natural resources. There is some gold on the island. It was here that the largest nugget of the metal ever discovered is said to have been found. In commemo ration of their great good fortune the men who dug this great piece of ore from the earth roasted a pig and used the chunk of gold for a table on which to serve the meal. They then shipped their find to the king of Spain, but in a great storm the vessel unfortunated , and the gold with it Santo Domingo is one of the most beautiful of the West India islands It lies between Cuba and Porto Rica In Samana bay it possesses one of the finest natural harbors in the world it was this port which President Grant was especially anxious to secure as a coaling station. At present it is but little used. There are a number of small cities in the republic, Santo Do-mingo, the capital, having about 15.000 inhabitants; Puerto Plata, the principal port, about the same number; La Vega, about 10,000; Santiago, 8,000, and Samana, 2,000.

Johnston was shot while on a launch on its way from the shore to the United States auxiliary cruiser Yankee. The small American flag in the stern of the boat was riddled. Doctor was wounded in a subsequent engagement of the Columbia with some of the insurgent forces. About a week after the killing of Johnston, it will also be recalled, a merchant steamer named the New York discharged her cargo at the port of Santo Domingo under what was thought to be an agreement of the contending forces. She was fired on by the insurgents, however, and the United States cruiser Newark retallated by shelling the town of Pajarito, in which the rebels were encamped, afterward landing a force of marines and driving out the insurgent troops. All of this naturally led to further complications. Though the rebel forces have been very thoroughly beaten in subsequent engagements with the troops of President Morales, the island is yet in a very unsettled condition, and there is a considerable party, in which the commercial element predominates, that is fa-States, or at least to a protectorate by

the American government.

ation of Santo Domingo to the United States. It was in July, 1869, that Grant received the proposal, and he lost no time in sending a special commissioner to the island to look into conditions and report. After some further negotiations the treaty of annexation was prepared, the question was submitted to the voters of Santo Domingo, who gave it almost unanimous approval at a special election held for the purpose, and Grant submitted the treaty to the United States senate for ratification. Charles Sumner was chairman of the foreign affairs committee and bitterly opposed the ratification of the treaty. He even went so far as to attack the president and to charge that a corrupt deal was back of the scheme. So heated did the controversy become that Grant refused to speak to Sumner, and the Massachusetts senator was practically read out of his party. The upshot of the whole matter was that Senator Sumner succeeded in securing sufficient support to defeat the treaty.

The annexation talk died down and has not been renewed until recent in the island still continued to favor

reux was elected, and the constitution, who opposed him. In this manner he, the vice president, Vasquez, was in- | rections are comparatively bloodless, was so altered that he could succeed continued in power until 1899, when he himself. This he did with somewhat was assassinated. In 1844 came the re- ambitious fellow will make himself a bellion of the eastern portion of the isvorable to annexation to the United years, although the commercial party himself. This he did with somewhat was assassinated.

Roosevelt emphatically declares he will tion. There were frequent uprisings, he went into office and an ambitious nez president. In 1902 occurred an-not consider so long as any other way and presidents came in rapid succession. He became practical dictator of the other revolution, which was successful the island thinks himself competent to enment is modeled on that of the dea of annexation to the United Annexation to

the plan. Meanwhile affairs in the lit- matters that it was impossible to oust Heureux regime came the revolution Domingo the president is elected for glory and the capital. The annexation idea, which President the republic were in a troubled condi- him. Heureux was a young man when that resulted in making General Jimi- four years, unless sooner "revoluted"

monotonous regularity, so contriving Shortly after the violent close of the ent revolution is directed. In Santo "general" and execute a dash toward land, resulting in the formation of the

The people are of mixed Spanish, out of the difficulty is possible, is no sion until in 1886 General Ulysses Heu- | country, banishing or executing those in forcing Jiminez to resign, on which | be chief magistrate and as the insur- American republic and so far as form | States.

The oldest settlement made in the new world was on this island. Columbus himself having founded it. Here the great discoverer was buried and here for a number of years was the capital of the Spanish possessions in the new world.

At the end of the eighteenth century Spain ceded the eastern half of the island to France, which held the western half. Soon after the entire country under Toussaint L'Ouverture gained its

present Dominican Republic. Outside of the commercial element, ASHLEY M. DUNCAN.

Resourceful Japanese Soldiers In Camp and on the March; Agile Brown Men Masters of the Accessories of War



of drill, the months of marching and camp life, the manner in which the men are provisioned and a thousand and one other details of army life of which the

world knows next to nothing. These things constitute the foundation stones of the temple of war, while the actual fighting is but the superstructure. It is just here that the Japanese army excels-in the unnoted and inglorious preparations, the infinite pains, the

irksome and tollsome preliminaries, neglect of which has proved the undoing of so many armies. The Jap has a certain scientific turn of mind that has not been fully recognized by western students of his character. It is the manner in which he has reduced the detail of drill, march and camp to a science that has surprised military experts. They expected him to be a fighter; his fathers had been so from time immemorial. But that he should so cheerfully take up and so thoroughly master the tedious and prosale part of the work was not in accordance with the estimate of him the world had previously formed.

It was in the march to Peking made by the allies in 1900 that the American and European soldiers discovered that they were outclassed and overmatched by the little brown men not only in a dash at the enemy and the storming of a fort, but also in the weary tramp

across the hot rice fields of China. It was not alone that the Japs were

more nimble and faster than the larger expert will readily testify.



JAPANESE INFANTRY ON SCOUTING DUTY.

telling thing in war, as any military democratic spirit exists. The men do the service. not need to be driven. Each one con-

The Jap soldier does everything at a | ducts himself as though the eye of the | private soldier carried a lightweight | consists of a detachable cylinder measdouble quick. His agility comes not from discipline so much as from ea-gerness. He actually loves the game to be article a new of the ordinary weight is country, so eager that when gerness and the ordinary weight is country to a detachable cylinder meas-to a storm coat, also used for a blanket; two days' supply of cooked rice, dried fish and red beans and the ordinary weight is country is placed the fire, which a dog trot and carrying a considerable of war. It should be said in passing ly hazardous undertaking the officers of gun and ammunition. In addition to heats a huge sheet iron kettle set upon burden besides. This is a feat that it soldiers from the west, but that they but that they is a feat that it were more resourceful. This power of Japanese army. While there is perfect tude that offer themselves and the in-Japanese army. While there is perfect tude that offer themselves and the in- infantry company carries the German smaller perforated kettle, which cooks form, especially when it must be kept initiative in the individual soldier is a respect shown to the officers, a very sistence of each that he be chosen for cooking apparatus, which is regarded enough rice to make a meal for a hun- up every day of the year. by military experts as the lightest and dred men. Another new feature has

When camping the Japs, if possible, In the Peking march each Japanese best cooking outfit yet constructed. It been introduced in the present war. take advantage of a village and sleep

Individual half pound tins of meat are upon the floors of the houses. Their carried by pack horses, sufficient to supply all the men. The Japs are not much given to meat eating, their cus-tomary food being rice and fish. Ex-perts have argued that because of their vegetarian dist the solution of the rest of the solution of the vegetarian diet the soldiers would not almost any other material serving for

be easily exhausted, a condition that try, that being the sort to which they physicians who have resided in Japan have the strength and endurance nec- the purpose. physicians who have resided in Japan are accustomed, so that mountainous claim to have discovered as being a Korea will offer no insuperable obsta-

characteristic of the people. The ad- cles to them. Military authorities who are famildition of meat to the soldiers' diet, it is believed, will obviate this difficulty- lar with the drill of the Japanese sol diers are loud in its praise. The nat-Each man at the present time also ural precision and adaptability of the that is, if it ever actually existed.

carries an aluminium mess pan con- men, perfected by long training, have taining the customary two rice rations, made them masters of taotics and ordibesides six emergency rations, which hary military maneuvers and evoluare dried and placed in cotton bags, tions. But in actual fighting they each having only a triffing weight. In know the value of each one taking care fact, the commissary of the Japanese of himself, using trees or rocks for army is ideal and is being so much ad- cover and depending upon his own femired by foreign military men who are sources so far as it may be conformawitnessing the war in the far east that ble to discipline and the most effective it is almost certain to become a model for western nations. So rapidly has very much the advantage of the Bus-the number of the base of the base of the source and the pupil learned that he is becoming sian soldiery, for the Slav knows net-the teacher. Not the least important portion of even permitted to think for himself.

is the first-aid-to-the-wounded This is not only carried but the the equipment of the private Jap soldier kit. This is not only carried, but the men are thoroughly instructed as to its rapid and efficient use.

On the march the men move with a short, quick step. They are wiry and tireless, covering distances that wear out even seasoned troops of other nations. It is well known that the jin-

the soldiers of the mikado, who have ries of drill, of camp and of march. will show themselves equally master on the actual field of battle? ALLAN A. BENTON.

actions, these eastern Tankees are

lightninglike in their handling of can-

non. Their only deficiency in their

battery work is the lack of horses, but

in the present war this difficulty, to

some extent at least, has been over-

This is the sort of fighting machine

that is facing Russia's stolid and in-

mense armies. Who can doubt the

