

**Names of Warships.**

**RUSSIAN AND JAPANESE.**

A certain amount of interest always attaches to the names of warships. In view of the Russo-Japanese war, a brief account of the meaning of the names of the warring nations' fighting vessels may not be uninteresting.

Chitose means "a thousand years"; Kasagi, Yoshino, Mikasa, and Asama are the names of Japanese mountains, the last-named being volcanic. The war vessel Fuji is, of course, named in honour of the holy mountain, the snow-capped peak, so dear to the Japanese heart and so familiar in Japanese objects of art. Izumo and Iwate are names of Japanese provinces. Takasago is the name of a beautiful place which figures in a romantic Japanese story or legend.

Asahi means "the morning sun," which also is the design, as everyone is aware, of the Japanese flag. Yashimo and Shikishima are poetical names of Japan. Hatsuse has a significance most difficult to describe in English, but it means, in a general way, a spring or the source of a brook or stream. Yakumo means "eight clouds," and has a long legendary story at the back of it.

The Japanese smaller war craft, like torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers, bear the names of Japanese birds.

A rather striking feature of the somewhat jaw-breaking names of Russia's war vessels is their religious character, due to the strength of the Greek Church in all things Muscovite. Bayan means a "bard" or "singer." Dimitri Donskoi was the name of the Muscovite Grand Duke who in the fourteenth century built the Kremlin at Moscow, and beat the Tartars in a great and decisive battle on the banks of the Don River, for ever breaking their power, and staying their invasion. He took his surname from the name of the river where he won his victory.

Dvenadzt Apostoly means "the twelve apostles." Kniaz means "prince," hence Kniaz Potemkine is Prince Potemkine. Navarin is the Russian name of the Greek Gulf, where, in 1827, the Turkish fleet was beaten by the combined English, Russian, and French fleets, under Admiral Codrington, of the British Navy. Orel is a town in Russia, founded in 1564 as a frontier fort against the Tartars.

The religious feature is again prominent in the two names Oslaybia and Pervsiev. They were two monks who bore a prominent part in the battle of Koolikovo against the Tartars in 1380. Pallada is the name of the Greek goddess Pallas. The Petropavlovski is named in honour of a seaport town in Kamtschatka. The Poltava is named from a river, province, and town in Southern Russia. It was here, in July, 1709, that Peter the Great beat Charles XII. of Sweden in one of the greatest battles in Russian annals.

The Russians have two powerful armoured cruisers in the Rurik and the Rossia. The latter name needs no explanation. The former was the name of the founder of the Russian State. He was a Norse chief, and died in 879. His descendants were the Czsars of Russia until the end of the sixteenth century. The Sevastopol is, of course, named after the Russian port in the Crimea which so long withstood siege by the allied British, French, and Turkish troops in the Crimean war.

The Borodina is named for the great battle between the French and Russian armies during Napoleon's invasion of Russia. Vitziaz means "knight" or "hero." And, once more, there is the ecclesiastical feature in the name Tria Sviatitelia, which means "three saints," the trio of great theologians of the Greek Church—St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostomos. The name Pobieda means "victory," which the Russians have yet to attain.

**The Russian Soldier's Duty.**

**KEEP ON ADVANCING.**

Recently, at the request of the Czar, General Dragomiroff, of the Imperial staff, drew up a code of rules for the guidance of Russian soldiers in action, with special reference (it is to be presumed) to the then impending war in the Far East. The Muscovite "Tommy Atkins" must:

1. Perish thyself, but drag thy comrade out of danger.

2. Keep on advancing, although the men in front of thee are down.

3. Fear no destruction; then thou art sure to conquer, no matter how hard it may be for thee.

4. If it is hard for thee, thy enemy does not find it lighter, but perhaps still harder than thou; thou seest only thy own hard situation, not the enemy's, which is bound to exist for all that. And so never let thy head hang, but be ever bold and steadfast.

5. In defending one must strike, and not only ward off. The best method of defence is to attack.

6. In battle, whoever is bolder and more enduring wins, but not whoever is stronger and goes to work more skillfully. Victory is not achieved in the first storm; the enemy generally happens to be steadfast as well; often even a second or a third attack is still unsuccessful—then one must attack for the fourth time, and again and again until the end has been attained.

7. More or less adroit dispositions only make it possible to reach the end with smaller loss; he alone will reach it who is determined to fall rather than fail to attain his purpose.

8. Whatever unexpected difficulties may obstruct thy way to the end, thou must always think of overcoming them, not how hard the situation is.

9. Good troops know no "back" or "side"; they keep their front turned towards the direction whence the enemy comes.

10. However unexpected the enemy may appear, thou oughtest never to forget one thing—that thou canst always go against him with the bayonet, or shoot him down. Choice between the two is not difficult. If the enemy is near, always the bayonet; if he is at a distance, first the rifle, then the bayonet.

11. There is no situation from which one cannot emerge with honour.

12. There is no relief in battle. Once thou art in it, there thou must stay to the end. Thou wilt receive support, never relief.

13. As long as thou art fighting with the enemy support the uninjured; do not trouble thyself about the wounded until thou hast beaten the foe. Whoever troubles himself about them during the battle and leaves the ranks is a coward and a fellow of no account, not a compassionate man. He cares not for his comrades, but his own skin. There are always special corps for looking after the wounded.

Not only has a copy of the above rules and injunctions been supplied to every soldier now at or proceeding to the seat of war, but they are read daily on parade, and the non-commissioned officers have received strict orders to see to it that the men study and thoroughly understand them.

**The Russian Navy.**

**GUN PRACTICE AND STRATEGY.**

**OFFICERS MUST BE OF NOBLE BIRTH.**

**INTERESTING SIDELIGHTS.**

It is generally understood that the Russian Admiralty cherishes theories of strategy (says Mr. John Stuart in an article contributed to the London "Morning Post") which are not the same as those adopted by other Powers. For instance, great importance is attached to bow and stern fire. The heavy guns are placed higher in the vessel than is usual in other fleets. More confidence is set in small quick-firing guns than might be expected. Consequently the weight of the broadside fire, to which so much importance is attached in Great Britain, is lower than might be expected from vessels of heavy tonnage. On one point information is lamentably incomplete. It is impossible to arrive at any reasonable estimate of the Russian fleet's efficiency in gunnery practice. Accounts vary, generally in proportion to the hospitality shown to the observer on Russian warships; if, indeed, observer be the correct word, for the Russians are always reluctant to expose either their strength or their weakness. Certainly their shooting at Crete was unaccountably bad. It is safe to remark that their disposition of guns, especially on the battleships, is a token of remarkable confidence or of an equally remarkable misunderstanding of the conditions of modern naval war. It is also impossible to avoid reflections on the lack of homogeneity in the Russian fleet for the pace of every squadron is determined by the pace of its slowest member. Formerly the Russian navy used to be recruited entirely from Finland and Courland (continues Mr. Stewart), but now is

recruited from all parts of the Empire. One flaw in the system is that the men are not recruited till they are 21, another which, however, chiefly affects the officers is that the squadron do not get enough practice in combined manoeuvres. A point in the favour of the Russian sailor is that the authorities have never abandoned the practice of man-of-war discipline. It is said that the men are not intelligent. Intelligence has been proved a most useful quality in our own navy, and the Japanese are intelligent. Even Philo-Russians complain that the artificers and engineers, especially in the lower ranks, are incompetent, inexperienced, and not particularly strongly devoted to their profession. This is a serious fault, since all the best ships are fitted with Belleville boilers, except the Rurik and the Tzarevitch, which carry Mihalouze boilers and the Mihalouze needs just as careful handling as the Belleville. There is no question about executive authority. Any officer may punish a man who is under him, and discipline is merciless. At the end of last year all the Russian ships on the Pacific station were rather undermanned, but probably this defect has been remedied. Their full complement is rarely so great as in a Japanese ship of a corresponding rating.

For officers the navy is the fashionable service in Russia, and every officer must be of noble birth. It is a reproach commonly urged against Russian officers that they are too eager for shore billets, and do not love the rough-and-tumble of their work. On such a point the ordinary writer's experience is limited, but one may be permitted to remember three or four who were skilful navigators or devoted to the practice of gunnery, or in some way or another of once patriots and keenly engaged in their profession—efficient talkers on strategy, too. But arguments on strategy do not necessarily imply competence in war. It ought to be said that our own officers have little regard for the efficiency of the Russians. The Intelligence Department of the Fleet is, however, admirable and thoroughly well informed. It will probably be amply represented on the scouting cruisers.

**BRONCHIAL ASTHMA.**

**AN AUCKLAND NATIVE CURED BY DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS.**

Many wonderful cures of influenza, bronchitis, asthma, consumption, and other chest and lung complaints have been made by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, because they actually make new blood. In this way the lungs, heart, liver, kidneys, and every organ in the body are cleansed, healed, and strengthened.

Mr A. J. Dunlop, who was born in Auckland, but who is now a prosperous farmer in Heatherton, Victoria, would probably have died of Bronchial Asthma but for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. This is the solemn sworn statement he has made:

"I, Andrew James Dunlop, do solemnly and sincerely declare that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People cured me of chronic Asthma after being invalid for 16 years. I caught a heavy cold 20 years ago, through walking six miles in the pouring rain. A month later I began to cough, and wheeze on the chest every night. Then the Asthma grew worse and worse. Every night a horrible smothering feeling came on. I moaned and struggled and gasped for breath. My nostrils were completely stuffed up with Catarrh. It took two hours' continuous hawking and coughing before I could draw even one breath through my nose. I had to get out of

bed and sit bolt upright every night about midnight to stop myself from suffocating. The family lost their sleep night after night attending to me. I never had a sound night's sleep in bed for 16 years. The coughing fit nearly lifted the top off my head. My forehead burned and there were boring aching pains in the back of my head and shoulders. Sometimes, when smothering in the house, I groped my way out into the cold night air where I could breathe enough to keep myself alive. Often I prayed for death, while my good wife went on her knees to pray for relief for me. The Catarrh filled up my nose, and the foul droppings into my mouth sickened me. I was worn to a shadow. Every breath I drew made me wheeze as if there were rusty machinery in my chest. In these 20 years I spent £250 on doctors and medicines. Then Mr L. J. Eden made me take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. They cured him of Indigestion and Rheumatism, and he is one of the best known men here in Heatherton. I wrote to 'the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co. for advice and they said to take the pills regularly and to use Nasal Balm for the Catarrh. They pointed out that Asthma was a strange mixture of nervous trouble and chest weakness—and they showed me how good blood was bound to strengthen both my lungs and my nerves. I followed their advice, and in 8 weeks I was completely cured. This was four years ago, and I have been working hard on the farm ever since. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and Nasal Balm have cured me of chronic Asthma and nasal Catarrh after 20 years of misery, and made a strong, robust hard-working man of me. I declare this to be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God. (Signed) Andrew James Dunlop. Declared at Heatherton, this 10th day of November, A.D. 1903, before me (signed) Robert Mills, J.P.

The same blood-building pills that cured Mr Dunlop of Bronchial Asthma have cured others of anaemia, headaches, backaches, kidney disease, lumbago, rheumatism, sciatica, neuralgia, and indigestion.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by chemists and storekeepers, and the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Wellington, 3/ a box; six boxes 10/6, post free. Always in boxes—never in bottles.

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