



REAR-ADMIRAL ALBERT PARKER NIBLACK, U. S. N.,

PRESIDENT OF THE DIRECTING COMMITTEE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU

Died 20th. August 1929.

Albert Parker NIBLACK, born at Vincennes, Indiana, 25th. July 1859, was the son of William Ellis, who was a member of Congress and a Judge of the Indiana Supreme Court, and Eliza Ann (SHERMAN) NIBLACK, and was the great-great-grandson of John NIBLACK, a native of Scotland who emigrated to the American Colonies in 1760 and settled near Salisbury, North Carolina.

Albert Parker NIBLACK graduated at the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1880, and served on the South Pacific station from 1880 to 1882. From 1884 to 1888 he was engaged in survey and exploration work in Alaska. He served three years on board the U. S. S. *Chicago*, and then as Flag Lieutenant of the North Atlantic Squadron during 1893-94. He was Inspector of Naval Militia, 1895-96, and writer and lecturer on signalling and naval tactics at the Naval War College, 1893-96.

In 1890 and 1896 he was prize essayist of the Naval Institute and later was Naval Attaché in Berlin, Rome and Vienna. In the Spanish-American war he participated in the blockade of Cuban ports and in the battle of Nipe Bay. In November 1898, he was transferred to the flagship *Olympia* at Manila and aided in the suppression of the Filipino insurrection, serving in the vicinity of Manila, Ilo Ilo, Subig Bay and Lyngayen Gulf. He served in China during the Boxer Campaign of 1900.

Lieutenant-Commander NIBLACK was Secretary of the Naval Commission to the Philippines in 1901; Inspector of Target Practice in 1902; and was attached to the Naval Station, Hawaii, in 1903. He commanded the U. S. S. *Iroquois* during 1904-06 and was attached to the Pacific squadron during 1906-07. In the latter year he was promoted Commander and commanded ships at the Naval Academy during 1907-09. In the following year he was in command of the U. S. S. *Tacoma* in Central American waters, and for a year and a half served as Naval Attaché to the Argentine, Brazil and Chile.

He was promoted Captain in 1911 and transferred as Naval Attaché to the U. S. Embassy in Berlin (1912-13). He served with the Atlantic fleet during 1913-15, commanding the U. S. S. *Michigan*, and he commanded the 3rd Seaman Regiment in the occupation of Vera Cruz, Mexico, in April 1914. He graduated at the Naval War College in 1916 and became a member of the General Board.

On the outbreak of the European war, he was placed in command of Division N^o 1 and later Squadron N^o 1, of the battleship force of the Atlantic fleet. He was promoted Rear-Admiral in 1917 and, in November 1917, placed

in command of the U. S. naval forces based on Gibraltar. He was in command of the U. S. Naval contingents in the western Mediterranean and of forces in the Adriatic from 23rd. January until 1st, April 1919. At Gibraltar, Admiral NIBLACK was charged with the convoy of allied shipping from Gibraltar to Great Britain and back.

After serving as a member of the Naval Commission of the Adriatic, he became Director of Naval Intelligence in May 1919, and served in this capacity until September 1920, when he was appointed Naval Attaché at London. In January 1921, he was promoted to the rank of Vice-Admiral in command of the U. S. Naval Forces in Europe, and in July 1922, commandant of six naval districts, Charleston, S. C. Admiral NIBLACK is author of "*The Coast Indians of Alaska and Northern British Columbia*" (1889), and "*Why Wars Come*" (1922), and technical papers published in the Proceedings of the U. S. Naval Institute, and of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, including "Tactical Consideration Involved in Torpedo Boat Design" (1899).

He retired in 1923, after 47 years active service, and was elected a Director of the International Hydrographic Bureau at Monaco, in February 1924, to fulfil an unexpired term of a member who had resigned; he was re-elected Director and President of the Directing Committee from 1st. March 1927.

In recognition of his services in the European war he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by the United States; Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Knight Commander of St. Michel and St. George by Great Britain; Commander of the Legion of Honour by France; Grand Officer of the Avis by Portugal; Commander of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus by Italy; White Eagle, Second Class (Military) and White Eagle, First Class (Civil) by Serbia; Order of the Sacred Treasure by Japan; Grand Officer Ouissam Alaouite by the Sultan of Morocco; and Grand Officer of Nicham Iftikhar by the Bey of Tunis. Also Grand Officer of St. Charles (Monaco) and of the Order of the Striped Tiger (China); and Commander of the Order of Dannebrog (Denmark), for services unconnected with the war.

Admiral NIBLACK was a member of the Naval Institute, the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, and the Anthropological Society.

He was married on 24th. Novembre 1903, to Mary A., daughter of William P. HARRINGTON of San Francisco, California, who survives him.

While in the Bureau, his untiring energy and high capacities were a source of strength to it and his devotion and keenness communicated themselves to all who had the honour of serving with him.

Admiral NIBLACK's principal contributions to the publications of the Bureau are: SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS :—

- N^o 6 *Summary of Data on Uniformity in Buoyage and Buoy Lighting.*
(with tabulation).
- " 6a *Further summary of Data on Uniformity in Buoyage and Buoy Lighting.*
- " 8 *Summary of Data on Uniformity in Storm Warning Signals.*
(Illustrated Tabulation).

- N^o 8a *Further Summary of Data on Uniformity in Storm Warning Signals.*
- " 11 *Summary of Data on Wind Force and the Beaufort Scale.*
- " 15 *Summary of Data on Coastal Signals, with proposals for their unification.* (Illustrated Tabulation).
- " 16 *Summary of Data on port Signals.* (Illustrated Tabulation).
- " 17 *Summary of Data on Safety of Life at Sea.*
- " 18 *List of Life-Saving Stations.*
- " 19 *Ocean Currents in relation to Oceanography, Marine Biology, Meteorology and Hydrography.*

The remains of Admiral NIBLACK were sent to Cherbourg to be conveyed to America in the U. S. Flagship *Raleigh*, being saluted at Monaco station by a guard of the Carabiniers of the PRINCE of Monaco and by members of the Monégasque Government and of the Bureau. On arrival at Cherbourg on Saturday 24th. August, they were placed in a mortuary chapel arranged in the Station waiting-room and watched by American Officers and Sailors. Admiral DAYTON accompanied by his Officers arrived at the Station at 8.50 a. m.

A few minutes later, Rear-Admiral HERVE, the acting Préfet Maritime, and the General Officers of the First Region arrived. French and American troops were assembled outside the Station and at 9 a. m. the coffin, draped with the American flag, was placed by American sailors on a gun carriage whilst the troops stood at arms and the band of the *Raleigh* played the last salute. A procession was then formed. The coffin was preceded by detachments of French troops and American seamen with their bands and was followed by Admiral DAYTON, his Chief of Staff, the Captain and Officers of the *Raleigh*, Mr. WILEY United-States Consul, Mr. HOUCK Vice-Consul, Admiral HERVE, Acting Préfet Maritime representing the Minister of the French Navy, Mr. LUCHAIRE, Sous-Préfet of Cherbourg, representing the French Government, Mr. LE BRETTEVILLOIS, Mayor of Cherbourg, the General Officers of the Port of Cherbourg, amongst whom Rear-Admiral BENET and General COLIN, a delegation of the Légionnaires, one company of French sailors and one company of the 1st Colonial Regiment.

When the procession reached the Majorité Générale the troops saluted while the coffin was deposited by a crane on a launch which conveyed it to the *Raleigh*.

The band played a funeral march whilst the *Raleigh* and then the French destroyer *Adroit* fired a salute of thirteen guns. The launch proceeded towards the *Raleigh* followed by another launch carrying Admiral DAYTON and the American Officers.

The *Raleigh* weighed anchor at 1 p. m.

