

GERMANY THE NEXT REPUBLIC?

BY CARL WACKERMAN

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So Great Had Become the Losses Attending the U-Boat Campaign Against England That the German Admiralty Began to Draw Up Plans for Submarine Warfare in Less Dangerous Waters—To This End They Started Training Large Numbers of Sailors

When the Berlin Foreign Office Assured the United States After the Sussex Sinking That Ruthless Torpedoing Would Cease It Meant Only Until Such Time as Germany Could Build Enough Submarines Successfully to Defy the American Government

GERMANY'S submarine warfare, which was introduced in February, 1915, began by sinking less than 50,000 tons of ships per month. By November, 1915, the amount of tonnage destroyed per month was close to 200,000 tons. By January, 1916, the tonnage of ships destroyed by submarines had fallen to under 100,000 tons. In April, 1916, as Grand Admiral von Tirpitz's followers made one more effort to make the submarine warfare successful, nearly 275,000 tons were being destroyed a month. But after the sinking of the Sussex and the growing possibilities of war with the United States the submarine warfare was again held back and in July less than 125,000 tons of shipping were destroyed.

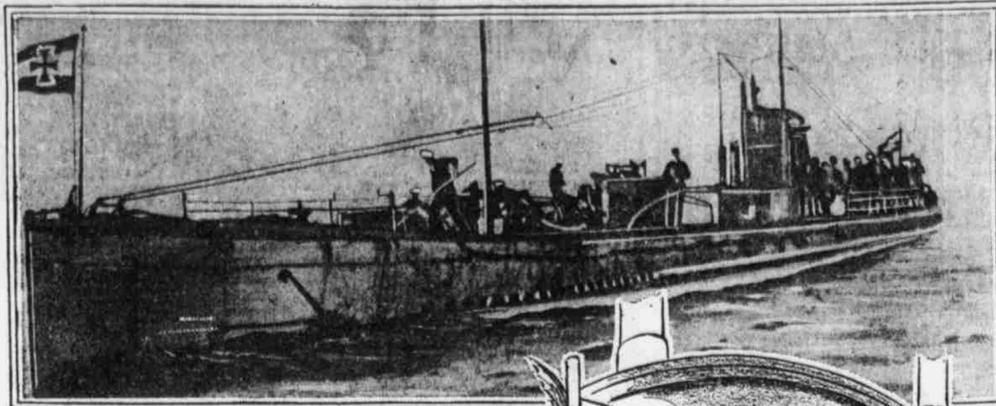
The U-Boats Change Their Plans

At this time, however, the submarine campaign itself underwent a change. Previously most of the ships destroyed were sunk off the coast of England, France or in the Mediterranean. During the year and a half of the submarine campaign the Allies' method of catching and destroying submarines became so effective it was too costly to maintain submarine warfare in belligerent waters. The German navy had tried all kinds of schemes but none was very successful. After the sinking of the Ancona the Admiralty planned for two submarines to work together, but this was not as successful as it might have been. During May, June and July the submarine warfare was virtually given up, as the losses of ships during those months will show. There was a steep decline from a quarter of a million tons in April to less than 140,000 tons in May, about 125,000 tons in June and not much more than 100,000 tons in July.

During these three months the navy was being bitterly criticized for its inactivity. But as the events six months later will show the German navy simply used these months to prepare for a much stronger submarine campaign, which was to begin in August. By this time it was decided, however, not to risk a submarine campaign off the Allied coasts, but to operate in the Atlantic off the coasts of Spain and Norway. This method of submarine warfare proved very successful and by November, 1916, Germany was sinking over 425,000 tons of ships per month.

During this swell in the success of the submarine campaign the U-53 was dispatched across the Atlantic to operate off the United States coasts.

U-53 was sent here for two purposes: First, it was to demonstrate to the American people that, in event of war, submarines could work terror off the Atlantic coast. Second, it was to show the naval



authorities whether their plans for an attack on American shipping would be practical. U-53 failed to terrorize the United States, but it proved to the Admiralty that excursions to American waters were feasible.

On February 1, when the Kaiser defied the United States by threatening all neutral shipping in European waters, Germany had 400 undersea boats completed or in course of construction. This included big U-boats, like the U-53, with a cruising radius of 5000 miles, and the smaller craft, with fifteen-day radius, for use against England, as well as supply ships and mine layers. But not all these were ready for use against the Allies and the United States at that time. About 100 were waiting for trained crews or were being completed in German shipyards.

It was often said in Berlin that the greatest loss when a submarine failed to return was the crew. It required more time to train the men than to build a submarine. According to Germany's new method of construction, a submarine can be built in fifteen days. Parts are stamped out in the factories and assembled at the wharves. But it takes from sixty to ninety days to educate the men and get them accustomed to the seasick motion of the U-boats. Besides, it requires experienced officers to train the new men.

Honored for Bravery

To meet this demand Germany began months ago to train men who could man the newest submarines. So a school was established—a School of Submarine Murder—and for many months the man who torpedoed the Lusitania was made chief of the staff of educators. It was a new task for German kultur.

For the German people the lessons of the Lusitania have been exactly opposite those normal people would learn. The horror of noncombatants going down on a passenger liner, sunk without warning, was nothing to be compared to the heroism of aiming the torpedo and running away. Sixty-eight million Germans think their submarine officers and crews are the greatest of the great.

When the Berlin Foreign Office announced, after the sinking of the Sussex, that the ruthless torpedoing of ships would be stopped the German statesmen meant this method would be dis-



"Kaiser Wilhelm decorated the commander of the U-boat which sank the Lusitania with the highest military order, Pour le Merite."

continued until there were sufficient submarines to defy the United States. At once the German navy, which has always been anti-American, began building submarines night and day. Every one

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"Abraham Lincoln said that this Republic could not exist half slave and half free. Now, with similar clarity, we perceive that the world cannot exist half German and half free. We have to put an end to the bloody doctrine of the superior race—to that anarchy which is expressed in the conviction that German necessity is above all law. We have to put an end to the German idea of ruthlessness. We have to put an end to the doctrine that it is right to make every use of power that is possible, without regard to any restriction of justice, of honor, of humanity."

New York Tribune, April 7, 1917.

In the Government knew the time would come when Germany would have to break its Sussex pledge.

The German navy early realized the need for trained men, so it recalled, temporarily, for educational work the man who sank the Lusitania.

"But who sank the Lusitania?" you ask.
"The torpedo which sank the Lusitania and killed more than one hundred Americans and hundreds of other noncombatants was fired by Oberleutnant zur See (First Naval Lieutenant) Otto Steinbrink, commander of one of the largest German submarines."

"Was he punished?" you ask.
"Kaiser Wilhelm decorated him with the highest military order, the Pour le Merite."

"Where is Steinbrink now?"

"On December 8, 1916, the German Admiralty announced that he had just returned from a special trip, having torpedoed and mined twenty-two ships on one voyage."

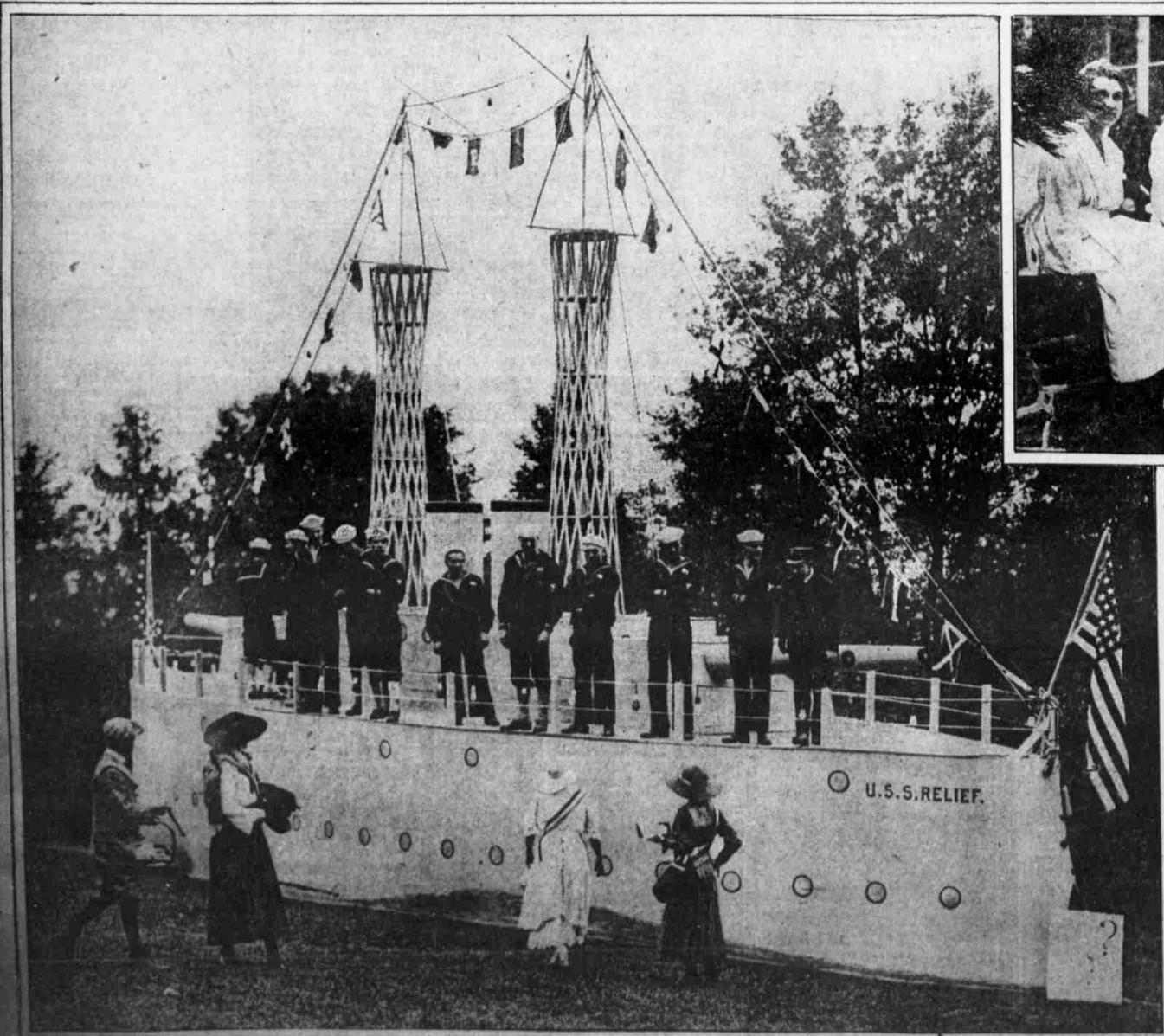
"What had he been doing?"
"For several months last summer he trained officers and crews in this branch of warfare, which gained him international notoriety."

It is said that Steinbrink has trained more naval men than any other submarine commander. If this be true, is there any wonder that Germany should be prepared to conduct a ruthless submarine warfare throughout the world? Is it surprising that American ships should be sunk, American citizens murdered and the United States Government defied when the German navy has been employing the man who murdered the passengers of the Lusitania as the chief instructor of submarine murderers?

The Krupp interests have played a leading role in the war, not only by manufacturing billions of shells and cannon and by financing propaganda in the United States, but by building submarines. At the Krupp wharves at Kiel some of the best undersea craft are launched. Other shipyards at Bremen, Hamburg and Danzig have been mobilized for this work, too. Just a few weeks before diplomatic relations were broken a group of American doctors, who were investigating prison camp conditions, went to Danzig. Here they learned that the twelve wharves were building between forty-five and fifty submarines annually. These were the smaller type for use in the English Channel. At Hamburg the Hamburg-American Lines wharves were mobilized for submarine construction also. At the time diplomatic relations were severed observers in Germany estimated that 250 submarines were being launched annually and that preparations were being made greatly to increase this number.

(CONTINUED MONDAY)

FULLY EQUIPPED BATTLESHIP AMONG ATTRACTIONS AT SOCIETY CARNIVAL FOR SAILORS



SAILORS MAN MINIATURE WARSHIP AT VAN RENSSLAER ESTATE

The United States steamship Relief, fully equipped with wireless and gun turrets, was the main feature of the Navy Yard Fete at Camp Hill for the maintenance of several projects for the welfare of sailors and marines.



PRETTY SOCIETY GIRLS ACT AS WAITRESSES AT NAVY FETE

Needless to say, they were considered "among the attractions" at the Van Rensselaer estate. Left to right are Miss Elizabeth McMichael, Miss K. C. Lee, Mrs. L. Downs, Miss Elizabeth Packard, Miss Katharine Hancock, Miss Mary Packard, Miss Ruth Hobart.



MRS. ALEXANDER VAN RENSSLAER, WITH JOHN FELL, HER YOUTHFUL ESCORT.