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4-Reel Sea Story

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Berlin, Feb. 7. (By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—Germany officially has given out the full text of "The Memorandum of the Imperial German Government concerning retaliation against the measures taken by England, in violation of international law, to stop neutral sea commerce with Germany." It follows:

"Since the beginning of the present war, Great Britain has carried on a mercantile warfare against Germany in a way that defies all the principles of international law. It is true that the British government has announced, in a number of decrees, the London Declaration concerning naval warfare, but in reality she has renounced the Declaration in its most important particulars, although her own delegates at the London Conference on Naval Warfare had recognized its conclusion to be valid as international law.

"The British government has put a number of articles in the list of contraband which are not, or at most, are only indirectly useful for military purposes, and therefore, according to the London Declaration, as well as according to the universally recognized rules of international law, may not be declared as contraband. She has, further, actually abolished the distinction between absolute and relative contraband, inasmuch as she has subjected to capture all articles of relative contraband intended for Germany, without reference to the harbor in which they are to be unloaded, or to the hostile or peaceful use to which they are to be put.

"She does not even hesitate to violate the Paris Declaration, as her naval forces have seized on neutral ships and cargoes which are not contraband, in violation of her own decrees concerning the London Declaration. She has further, through her naval forces, taken from neutral ships numerous Germans liable to military service, and has made of them prisoners of war.

"Finally, she has declared the entire North Sea to be an area of war, and if she has not made impossible the passage of neutral ships through the sea between Scotland and Norway, she has, at least, to a certain extent, effected a blockade of neutral coasts and neutral ports, in violation of all international law.

"All these measures have the obvious purpose, through the illegal nationalization of legitimate neutral commerce, not only to strike at the German military strength, but also at the economic life of Germany, and finally, through starvation, to bring the entire population of Germany to destruction.

"The neutral powers have generally accepted in a step-by-step manner by the British government, especially, they have not succeeded in inducing the British government to restore the German individuals and property seized in violation of international law. In certain directions they have also sided with the British measures, which are irreconcilable with the freedom of the sea, in that they have obviously, under the pressure of England, hindered by export and transit embargoes, the transit of wares for peaceful purposes to Germany.

A Knack for Neutral Powers. "The German government has in vain called the attention of neutral powers to the fact that it must face the question of whether it can longer persevere in its hitherto strict observance of the rules of the London Declaration, if Great Britain were to continue its course, and the neutral powers were to continue to acquiesce in these violations of neutrality, to the detriment of Germany."

FRENCH ARTILLERYMEN WITH A "75" GUN SHELLING A GERMAN POSITION.



In this picture, drawn especially for this newspaper, the New York Herald and the London Sphere, Pictu Thirist, the artist, shows the French deadly "75" at work clearing the streets of a French village. Describing his picture, the artist says:—"The Germans were becoming troublesome to the French at the village of B—, in the north of France—so much so that the general ordered his 'plous-plous' to take the place. The French infantry attacked and succeeded in occupying the first houses, but could make no further progress. At this juncture a young artillery officer stepped into the breach and with splendid courage brought up one of his "75s" into the main street of the village. With a few shots he destroyed the shelters of the Germans, who were only a few yards off. The French infantry, hidden behind broken walls waiting to see the result of the duel, cheered the artillerymen and then proceeded to clear the village. In a few minutes the village was once more in French hands." The drawing shows the scene during the bombardment of the Germans by the French "75" gun.

PREPARING FOR A NAVAL BATTLE

If we could see the ships of the Grand Fleet in the North Sea we may be sure they would hardly present that spick and span appearance which we associate with a ship of war during times of peace; their sides all stained, with rust all round the water line, and a generally bedraggled appearance—that is if they have been keeping the sea. But the most startling change would be the stripped and naked appearance they would present for guns would be all sails, boat davits, rigging ropes, and the usual paraphernalia that is part of any ship's peace trimmings. The vessels are cleared for action! Getting a ship ready for the stern test of battle is no light undertaking. At least once a week during the piping times of peace the whole ship's company are exercised at "general quarters," an evolution which takes a very few minutes to reform. On these occasions the buglers sound off "exercise action," when the guns are "cast loose," magazines opened, and guns being loaded with a projectile and dummy charge. Drills are then proceeded with, the guns generally being secured and all stores returned by six bells—11 a. m.

When the ship is going to target practice "action" is sounded, and, of course, the guns are loaded with a real charge and the firing proceeds until the amount of ammunition allowed for these occasions is expended. Then the "secure" is sounded. That also is preparatory performance alongside "prepare for battle." Then the ship is stripped of every atom of fringing likely to prove dangerous to life and limb. One of the greatest dangers in a modern action is fire, owing to the terrible incendiary nature of the shells used, so that theoretically no scrap of wood should be found in a war-ship; but as men have to live in them during times of peace, a certain amount of wood fittings is absolutely necessary for comfort. But every scrap of wood fitting is of a portable nature and easily removed. Occasionally men go to "stations, prepare for battle," when every piece of woodwork that could be jettisoned is marked, and each man or group of men made to understand for what parts they would be responsible.

Just what would be done with boats in action seems never to have been definitely settled. Some officers are in favor of lowering them into crutches on deck or superstructures and filling them with water; others suggest covering them with canvas and binding them round with rope from stem to stern; others again, take the heroic course of dropping them into the sea all well fastened together and allowing them to drift where they will. The latter course seems the most practical and sensible one.

The only object of the boat can be to save life should the ship be reduced to a sinking condition, and both the filling of them with water or marling them down would render them useless for this purpose, as it would take some time before they could be made ready for lowering, always supposing they escaped the shattering effect of shell. What is being regarded as a good substitute for life-saving purposes in many ships in the grand fleet is the men's mess tables. These are made of one-inch planking, are about three feet wide, and from even to ten feet long. Floating flat on the water they would support a great number of men. Immediately meals are finished, these tables are dismantled ready for carrying on deck should the need for using them for life-saving purposes arise. Life-saving air belts have recently been provided. These are worn around the waist and can be blown up quickly, and will keep the wearer afloat if the ship goes down.

In our big modern ships no one will be outside armor protection during the course of an action. There are no secondary armaments to use today; for, although the latest of our Dreadnoughts, the Iron Duke class, carry 12 6-inch guns, as did all pre-Dreadnought ships, these are a purely anti-torpedo armament, and would not be used in a general action. The gun numbers would be all in their turrets, while the remainder would be below the protective deck and inside the belt armor.

At the commencement of an action—that is, if the weather were clear enough to allow for long range—the gun crews would have nothing to do beyond loading the gun, the training, laying and firing being carried out by the control officer in the control station situated at the foremast head. It is quite possible that a battle may be decided before the fleet get near enough for the individual gunlayers to show their skill. As things stand in the North Sea, we have every reason to believe that our ships have a much greater superiority of gun-fire over the German ships than the Guelzenau and Scharnhorst had over the Godd and Monmouth. Therefore it will be to our interest to make the range as far as possible; and as Admiral Jellicoe is also one of our leading gunnery experts, dependence may be placed upon him to take every advantage that superiority of gun-fire offers.

KAISER VISITS MEN IN TRENCHES

Berlin, Feb. 7. (By wireless to Sayville)—Emperor William, it was officially announced today, paid a visit yesterday to the Silesian Landwehr in their trenches near Groezonn, east of Wlozocwa.

DIXMUDE A CITY OF SUBTERRANEAN LIFE

Well known writer describes City destroyed by Germans—Priceless manuscripts strewn about streets.

Berlin, Jan. 20.—William Schotermann, one of the best known of the German war correspondents, has recently visited Dixmude, which has become famous through the heavy fighting around it in October and November, resulting finally in its capture by the Germans. He writes as follows: "Dixmude presents a picture of destruction such as I had not regarded possible, notwithstanding all that I have seen in this war. No house here has escaped, and many quarters of the town are heaps of ruins in which it is no longer possible to distinguish where the streets had been. The large market square is strewn with shells, and in order to reach the point where the beautiful town hall and the parish church of St. Nicholas used to stand, one has to pick one's way among deep holes gouged into the pavement by the heavy shells. The church is still to be recognized from an arch in the wall and a piece of the spire. But inside the debris lies as high as a man's head.

"Dixmude is dead, the grave of an old culture more touching than any city of the antique world, perished after thousands of years; for here one sees everywhere mementoes of men still living whose household goods are scattered in the streets, and whose rooms and houses, leads up to the artillery observation stand. From here we overlooked the battleground. The hostile trenches lie very close to each other, at one point not more than thirty yards. The River Yser, now carrying high water, constitutes the dividing line here. On the other side we could see the French military magazines, many of them in their trenches rather carelessly—what they might well do, as we were not answering their wild fusillade. I have now seen trenches all along the western front, from the Swiss border to the North Sea; but I have nowhere seen such trenches as these along the Yser here. The ditches are cut considerably below the water level of the river and the result is that they are constantly filled with water. They are cut, not into earth, but into fully saturated mud, and water is all

Trenches Filled With Water. "A tunnel, partly underground and partly broken through the walls of rooms and houses, leads up to the artillery observation stand. From here we overlooked the battleground. The hostile trenches lie very close to each other, at one point not more than thirty yards. The River Yser, now carrying high water, constitutes the dividing line here. On the other side we could see the French military magazines, many of them in their trenches rather carelessly—what they might well do, as we were not answering their wild fusillade. I have now seen trenches all along the western front, from the Swiss border to the North Sea; but I have nowhere seen such trenches as these along the Yser here. The ditches are cut considerably below the water level of the river and the result is that they are constantly filled with water. They are cut, not into earth, but into fully saturated mud, and water is all

WHERE GERMAN SUBMARINES SANK BRITISH MERCHANT SHIPS. A map showing the North Atlantic Ocean with labels for Ireland, Scotland, England, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and various cities like London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, and Budapest. It highlights the routes of German submarines and the locations where British merchant ships were sunk.

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