

BRITAIN'S NAVY AT WAR DISTANT BLOCKADE OF PORTS PROVED GERMANY'S UNDOING

Britain's Traditional Naval Policy Is Altered in Admiralty Orders of 1912—Churchill Defends Board's Actions in Methods of Bottling Up German Fleet.

V.—THE NORTH SEA FRONT.
By WINSTON CHURCHILL.

The traditional war policy of the admiralty grew up during the prolonged wars and antagonisms with France. It consisted in establishing, immediately upon the outbreak of war, a close blockade of the enemy's ports and naval bases by means of flotillas of strong small craft supported by cruisers, with superior battle fleets in reserve. The experience of two hundred years had led all naval strategists to agree on this fundamental principle, "Our first line of defense is the enemy's ports."

When, early in the present century, our potential enemy for the first time became not France, but Germany, our naval strategy front shifted from the Channel to the North Sea. But although the enemy, the front, and the theatre had changed, the sound principle of British naval strategy still held good. Our first line of defense was considered to be the enemy's ports. The admiralty policy was still a close blockade of the ports by means of stronger flotillas properly supported by cruisers and ultimately by the battle fleets.

It was not to be expected that our arrangements on this new front could rapidly reach the same degree of perfection as the conflicts of so many generations had achieved in the Channel; and so far as our naval bases were concerned, we were still in the process of transition when the Great War began. More serious, however, was the effect of the change on the utility of our destroyers. Instead of operating at distances of from twenty to sixty miles across the channel, with their supporting ships close at hand in safe harbors, they were now called upon to operate in the Heligoland Bight, across 240 miles of sea, and with no suitable bases for their supporting battle fleet nearer than the Thames or the Firth.

Therefore, from shortly before 1905 when the French agreement was signed, down to the Agadir crisis in 1911, the admiralty made plans to capture one or other of the German islands. On this it was intended to establish an overseas base at which from the beginning of the war our blockade flotillas could be replenished and could rest, and which, as we progressed, would have developed into a great advanced citadel of our sea power. In this way, therefore, the admiralty would still have carried out their traditional war policy of beating the enemy's flotillas and light craft into his ports and maintaining a constant close blockade.

These considerations were not lost upon the Germans. They greatly increased the fortifications of Heligoland, and they proceeded to fortify, one after another, such of the Frisian Islands as were in any way suitable for our purposes. At the same time a new and potent factor appeared upon the scene—the submarine. The submarine not only rendered the capture and maintenance of an overseas base or bases far more difficult and, some authorities have steadfastly held, impossible, but it threatened the destruction of our cruisers and battleships, without whose constant support our flotillas would cease to have been destroyed by the enemy's cruisers.

This was the situation in October, 1911, when immediately after the Agadir crisis the new board of admiralty over which I presided, was completely changed. Seeing that we had not for the time being the numerical force of destroyers able to master the destroyers of the potential enemy in his home waters, nor the power to support our flotillas

with heavy ships, and having regard also to the difficulty and hazard in the circumstances of storming and capturing one of his now fortified islands, we proceeded forthwith to revise altogether the war plans and substitute, with the full concurrence of our principal commanders afloat, the policy of distant blockade set out in the admiralty war orders of 1912.

The policy of distant blockade was not adopted from choice, but from necessity. It implied no repudiation on the part of the admiralty of the fundamental principle of aggressive naval strategy, but only a temporary abandonment of it. The face of untried practical difficulties; and it was intended that every effort should be made, both before and after the declaration of war, to overcome those difficulties. It was rightly foreseen that by closing the exits from the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean German commerce would be almost completely cut off from the world. It was expected that the resulting commercial disadvantage in the open sea was being suffered by the German power to fatally injure the German power to wage a war. It was hoped that this pressure would induce the German fleet to come out and fight, not in his own defended waters, but in the open sea, where the British would have the advantage.

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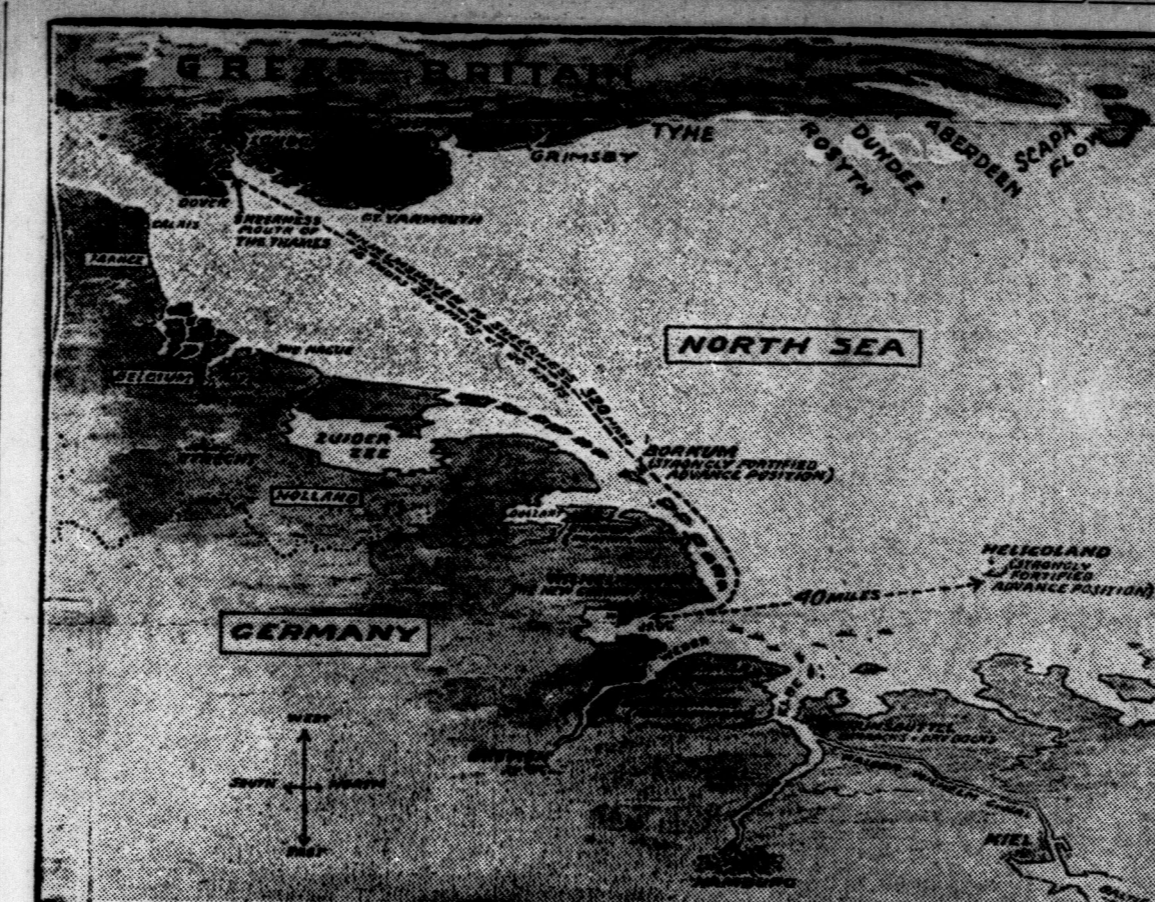
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GERMANY FORCES CHANGE IN BRITISH NAVAL STRATEGY. The above map shows why the British naval strategy front shifted from the south to the east coast and Helmsleben, guarded by strongly-fortified islands, rendered a close blockade of enemy ports no longer possible. Hence the policy of a distant blockade, explained by Winston Churchill today.

The Humber and the Tyne are unsuitable for large battle fleets, and are but lightly defended. Rosyth will not be ready even as a war-repairing base till 1916 at the earliest. Defenses are being erected at Cromarty, and a temporary floating base is in process of creation at that point. Only the most essential services are contemplated for Scapa Flow, and the Shetlands are quite unprotected. The only war bases available for the fleet along the whole of this front are Rosyth, Cromarty, and Scapa—the more remote being preferred, although the least defended. The landing places along the coast are numerous, extensive, and evenly distributed; the strategic objectives are numerous and important. The Shetlands are a strategic position of the highest consequence, totally undefended and unguarded. The same is true of the Orkneys, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, Newcastle, Hull, and Harwich are all points of primary importance. No large military garrisons comparable to those on the southern coast exist. But the comparison of the new conditions with the old becomes most unfavorable when we extend our view from the British to the German coast. It is difficult to find any sea front of greater natural defensive strength than the German North Sea coast. Intrinsic navigation, shifting and extensive sand banks and currents, strong tides, frequent mists and storms, make the Heligoland Bight a very difficult theatre for overseas operations. The deep re-entrant widening into a broad debouch, flanked at each side by lines of islands and sustained in the center of Heligoland, confers the greatest possible natural advantages upon the defense. To these have been added, and are being added, everything that military art can devise. Heligoland is an almost impregnable fortress of an advanced torpedo and airship station. Borkum and Sylt are both heavily defended by batteries, minefields, and strong garrisons, and both can be commanded by fire from the mainland. Into this great defended area, with its wide debouch facing towards us, access is given from the Elbe, the Eider, the Weser, the Jade Canal, communicating with the Baltic, and open for drednoughts, and the present year, within this area are the largest and most powerful German military arsenals. A fleet of transports assembled at either end of the Kiel Canal have the widely separated alternatives of emerging from the Heligoland Bight or from the Baltic for offensive purposes. There would be no difficulty on the declaration of war in assembling unperceived at Hamburg, Kiel, Wilhelmshaven, and other ports, the shipping necessary to transport at least 20,000 men; enough to transport 10,000 men, always in those ports. Large garrisons in the neighborhood amply sufficient to supply whatever military force was required. The German fleet, today large ships of the line class suitable for transport in a way which the French never did. The rigor with which the German navy has been informed has been pursued during the last five or six years has made it difficult to arrange for the help of the German navy. No one is to be expected that their communications by the usual postal and telegraphic means will be delayed if hostilities are imminent. Although the sources from which information may be obtained have been increased in numbers during recent years, and are still being increased as opportunity offers, yet the admiralty are not prepared to make any confident assertion that a force of 20,000 men could not be collected in time of peace and embarked without delay. As a matter of fact, very considerable numbers of a test character have been carried out without our having any knowledge until some days after the event.

Easy to Undertake.
I repulse, therefore, on behalf of the boards of admiralty over which I presided down to the end of May, 1918, all reproaches directed to what occurred in 1917 and 1918, and I decline to be stultified by any lessons arising out of them. It is vain to

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This is turning an old phrase face about, but modern methods of reduction have made this revision possible. If you are overfat and also averse to the exercise that is usually recommended, you will find it wise to reduce your excess flesh several pounds in a few weeks. This can be done by taking a course of Marmola Prescription, one of which you should take after each meal and at bedtime until you begin to lose your fat steadily and easily. Then continue the treatment until your weight is what you desire. Marmola Prescription tablets are not only harmless but really beneficial to the general health. You don't need starvation diet or wakening exercises. Just go on eating what you like, leave exercising to the athletes, but take your little tablets faithfully, and without a doubt that you will quickly take up your natural weight, leaving behind it your natural self, neatly clothed in firm flesh and trim muscles.—Adv.

tell me that if the Germans had built in the three years before the war the submarines they built in the three years after it had begun, Britain would have been undone; or that if England had had in August, 1914, the army that we possess and a year later there would have been no war. Every set of circumstances involved every other set of circumstances. Would Germany in profound peace have allowed by Great Britain to build an enormous fleet of submarines which could have no other object than the starvation and ruin of this island through the sinking of unarmed merchant ships? Would Germany have waited to attack France while England raised a powerful conscript army to go to her aid? Every event must be judged in fair relation to the circumstances of the time, and only in such relation. These papers are sufficient to show that we did not ignore the dangers that lay before us or neglect the attempt to penetrate their mysteries. It is easy to underestimate the difficulty of such work in days of peace.

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Empathically asserting that thousands of unfortunate sufferers have



Says "Flu" Has Returned Is Causing Pneumonia.

The discovery of the "flu" germ, Bacterium Pneumoniae, announced by Dr. Simon Flexner, director of the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research, clears up two "flu" mysteries—

First—Have this winter's mild cases been real influenza?

Dr. Flexner says the indications are "That a secondary wave of epidemic influenza, relatively mild in character, is passing over parts of Europe and America."

Second—Why does this mild influenza so often develop into pneumonia?

Because, as the Flexner report shows, the "flu" germ so injures the lung tissue that it loses its customary power to destroy the bacteria of bronchitis and pneumonia, commonly found in the nose and throat.

Avoid Influenza—Grip—Pneumonia

How To Apply Vicks To Help Avoid These Infections How To Use Vicks In Case You Are Attacked

AN epidemic of deep, grippy colds—less virulent than the influenza of the first epidemic, but worse than ordinary colds, and often leading into pneumonia—developed in December in the Southern States. This wave has gradually worked northward and just recently seems to have invaded Canada.

Vicks as a Preventive
The Rockefeller Institute report bears out the theory that these troubles are germ diseases, commonly spread by breathing in the germs. If the system is in good shape—the membrane of the air passages in a healthy condition—these germs do not ordinarily breed.

Keep a little Vicks rubbed up the nostrils at all times, particularly when exposed to crowds. At night melt Vicks in a spoon and inhale the vapors, or better still, use Vicks in a teakettle as directed below. This treatment helps to keep the air passages in good condition.

How To Heat and Apply Towels
Use an open kettle of very hot, not boiling, water. Fold a medium weight towel, lay it into another towel, and holding the outer towel by its ends, let soak for two minutes. Wring out by twisting the outer towel. Apply the hot towel for two minutes, meanwhile heating another towel, and applying it the moment the first is taken off. Two applications usually will produce the desired redness, but use three or four if necessary.

Get Skin Thoroughly Red
Whatever method is used, the application should be applied over the throat and chest until the skin is thoroughly reddened. In very deep colds, the sides and especially the back from the middle of the shoulder blades to a point just above the waist, should also be treated.

The patient should be given a good purgative and, if convenient, a hot mustard footbath for ten minutes—one tablespoon of mustard to a gallon of water.

Then Massage With Vicks
After the skin is thoroughly reddened, it should be dried lightly and immediately the patient should be given a brisk massage with Vicks all over the parts. Continue this for five minutes. This increases the counter-irritant effect. Then apply Vicks thickly over all parts; that is, spread it on as you would a poultice—about one-sixteenth of an inch thick or more—and cover with two thicknesses of hot flannel cloths.

Vicks' Double Action
Thus applied Vicks has a double action. First, Vicks is so made that the body heat gradually releases the ingredients in the form of vapors. The more Vicks applied, the stronger will be the vapors and the longer these vapors will last. The night clothing should always be loose around the neck and the bed clothes arranged in the form of a funnel. These vapors being lighter than air, rise up from the chest and, if the bed clothing is properly arranged, pass by the nose and mouth and are thus inhaled with each breath, carrying the medication directly through the air passages to the lungs.

A "Quick" Rubefacient Needed
The value of this counter-irritant effect is greatly increased if it is produced quickly. Nearly every family has its favorite method—onion poultices, turpentine stupes, mustard plasters and poultices of various kinds—all are good.

A very simple method is to apply towels wrung out in hot water, as hot as the patient can stand. This not only reddens the skin quickly, but also opens the pores so that more Vicks can be absorbed. Some, however, prefer to use an ordinary mustard plaster, as the reddening effect lasts longer.

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