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¶ Owing to the depression in business during the past four months, our General Furnishing stock is somewhat larger than is usual at this time of the year. During stock-taking we have decided to considerably reduce the prices of all General Furniture.

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WAR NEWS AGENCY.

The Submarine In War

PREVIOUS to the outbreak of the war the submarine was acknowledged by naval experts, next to the aeroplane, the most dangerous arm of either the army or naval services. Every once in a while news despatches contained the information that a submarine, through some unknown cause, had sunk, and carried its crew to death. These accidents, of no matter how frequent occurrence, did not deter experiment with the under-water warship, and there were always to be found in every navy daring spirits who were willing to risk their lives in experimenting with these little known craft.

At the outbreak of hostilities Great Britain had seventy efficient vessels ready for service, with twenty more under construction. Germany had about thirty submarines in all, twelve of which had recently come off the stocks, the latter craft of considerable displacement, great radius of action and reasonable habitability. What is the record of these ships since the war began? Despatches from London said:

Submarines Got Busy

"Three hours after the outbreak of war, submarine E6 (Lieut.-Commander Cecil P. Talbot) and E8 (Lt.-Commander Francis H. H. Goodhart) proceeded, unaccompanied, to carry out a reconnaissance in the Heligoland Bight. These two vessels returned with useful information, and had the privilege of being the pioneers on a service which is attended by some risks." So far as Great Britain was concerned, the war at sea was begun by the submarine—a point of historical interest.

During the transference of the British Expeditionary Force across the Channel in the opening days of the conflict, submarines guarded the transports. The admiralty tells us:

"During the exportation of the Expeditionary Force the Lurcher and Firedrake, and all the submarines of the Eighth Submarine Flotilla, occupied positions from which they could have attacked the High Sea Fleet had it emerged to dispute the passage of our transports. This patrol was maintained day and night without relief, until the personnel of our army had been transported and all chance of effective interference had disappeared.

Constantly Employed

"These submarines have since been incessantly employed on the enemy's coast in the Heligoland Bight and valuable information regarding the composition and movement of his patrols. They have occupied his waters and reconnoitered his anchorage; and while so engaged have been subjected to skilful and well-executed anti-submarine tactics; hunted for hours at a time by torpedo craft and attacked by gunfire and torpedoes."

The success of the Germans in the attack upon the Aboukir, Hogue and Cressy, on the one hand, and on the Hawke and Theseus on the other, and similarly the successful attack on the Russian cruiser Pallada was effected by the use of a neutral flag. In each case a merchant vessel flying the Dutch ensign, acted as decoy

and enabled the enemy's submarine to discharge a torpedo at a target which was apparently almost stationary.

Didn't Suspect It

When the war opened British naval officers can hardly have anticipated that an enemy, which is fighting for the spread of culture, would employ dishonestly the flag of a neutral country in order to get in its blows. This, however, is the stratagem which he has used. On the first occasion, according to the statements of survivors, the destroyers, which were acting as the screen of the cruisers, had been driven into port by heavy weather and were on their way to resume duty when the Aboukir noticed a fishing vessel flying the Dutch flag. Immediately afterwards she was struck by a torpedo. Commenting upon this action the Admiralty afterwards announced:

"The sinking of the Aboukir was, of course, an ordinary hazard of patrolling duty. The Hogue and Cressy, however, were sunk because they proceeded to the assistance of their consort, and remained with engines stopped endeavoring to save life, thus presenting an easy and certain target to further submarine attacks.

Led to Heavy Losses

"The natural promptings of humanity have in this case led to heavy losses which would have been avoided by a strict adherence to military considerations. Modern naval war is presenting us with so many new and strange situations that an error of judgment of this character is pardonable. But it has been necessary to point out for future guidance of His Majesty's ships that the conditions which prevail when one vessel of a squadron is injured in a mine field, or is exposed to submarine attack, are analogous to those which occur in an action, and that the rule of leaving disabled ships to their own resources is applicable. So far, at any rate, as large vessels are concerned. No act of humanity, whether to a friend or foe, should lead to the neglect of the proper precautions and dispositions of war, and no measures can be taken to save life which prejudice the military situation. Small craft of all kinds should, however, be directed by wireless to close the damaged ship with all speed."

Later the Theseus and Hawke were approached in the same manner, the latter was sunk; and the Theseus, acting under instructions steamed away from the danger area. The latest catastrophe to report is the sinking of the battleship Formidable in the English Channel.

It may come as a surprise to those who have not followed the course of the naval operations with care to learn that in the present war the gun has been more effective than the torpedo, in one case, it should be added, the gun has been reinforced by the ram as when the German submarine was sent to bottom by the cruiser Birmingham. The table of losses is as follows, it being added that three British ships—the small cruiser Amphion, the old gunboat Speedy and Submarine D5, as well as the German cruiser Yorck and the Japanese cruiser Takachiho—have been lost owing to mines:

Allies' Losses—(a) By Submarine attack: Cruiser Pathfinder, Cressy, Hogue, Aboukir, Hawke, Hermes, Battleship Formidable, Gunboat Niget, Cruiser Pallada (Russian), (b) By gunfire: Cruiser Monmouth, Pegasus, Good Hope.

Enemy's Losses—(a) By Submarine attack: Cruiser Hela; Destroyer S326. (b) By Gunfire: Minelayer Koenig Luise; Cruiser Zenta (Austrian); Submarine 15; Cruisers Destroyers, Emden, Ariadne, Mainz, (German) Gneissau, Scharnhorst, Leipzig, Nurnburg, Magdeburg, S20, 115, 117, 118, 119, 126 and V387.



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GERMANS SWEAR THEY GOT ORDERS KILL WOUNDED

German Minister at Berne Denied Charge that Such Orders Had Been Issued, But French Produced Order

AND WITNESSES TO PROVE DEEDS

Soldiers Tell of Atrocities Committed by Own Regiments Under the Direction of Their Officers

London, Jan. 18.—A Daily News despatch from Paris says Baron Romberg, the German Minister at Berne, having denied in the name of his Government the existence of any order to put to death French prisoners and wounded, the French Embassy in the Swiss capital has communicated to the Gazette de Lausanne the text of the order, together with evidence collected. An order signed by General Stenger, commanding the 58th brigade of the 14th Baden division, dated August 26, reads:—

No More Prisoners.

"From to-day there are to be no more prisoners. All prisoners are to be put to death. The wounded, with or without arms, are to be put to death. Prisoners even when forming big units are to be put to death. Not a man is to be left behind us alive."

The German prisoners whose evidence forms the basis of the charge against Gen. Stenger belong to the 112th and 114th German regiments of infantry. They were put under oath and signed their depositions.

A soldier of the 142nd deposed that on August 26, about 3 o'clock, he was with his battalion as an advance guard in the forest of Thiaville, when the order to dispatch the wounded and take no more prisoners was passed through the ranks and repeated from man to man.

Wounded Despatched.

This prisoner added that immediately after the order was received ten or twelve French wounded, lying here and there by the battalion, were dispatched by rifle shots.

Another prisoner from the same regiment deposed that on August 26 he, being on the line of communications, saw an officer unknown to him ride up and give the order in question as coming from the brigade headquarters. Immediately after he heard shots proceeding from the front of the detachment ahead of him.

A soldier of the 112th deposed that on August 26 he heard Capt. Curtin, commanding the 3rd company, say thenceforth no more wounded were to be made prisoners. Shortly afterwards he heard shots fired at the French wounded lying by the roadside.

Another soldier of the 112th deposed that on the same day between 4 and 5 o'clock the French wounded lying by the roadside from Thiaville to St. Benoit were killed by order of the first battalion.

According to the evidence of a non-commissioned officer, the order to kill prisoners and wounded was issued as early as August 9th, after the Battle of Ile Napoleon, in which the Germans suffered heavy losses.

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