

evaded a declaration of war despite Germany's hostile acts. Encouraged by this indication of the trend of American feeling, the German Government disregarded its promise of May 4th and informed Washington on January 31st, 1917, that Germany was about to enter upon an unrestricted submarine campaign.

On February 3rd diplomatic relations with Germany were ended; and the United States, abandoning its policy of "watchful waiting," entered upon the no less futile one of "armed neutrality." Events followed which made open war inevitable. Eight ships were torpedoed with the loss of many Americans during February and March. Documents were discovered which proposed an alliance between Mexico and Germany against the United States. In the face of such actions, even the most pacific of peoples could no longer avoid action. On April 6th, 1917, the United States declared war upon Germany.

After the United States had taken the step so long delayed, they entered whole-heartedly into the business of war. The creation of a huge army was undertaken. Large credits were advanced to her European Allies to aid the financing of purchases of war material. An extensive ship-building programme was begun, to counterbalance the inroads which the submarines were making upon Allied shipping. A squadron of battleships and some destroyers were sent across the Atlantic to co-operate with the British fleet. Her potentialities in men were vast, and, given time, her armies would more than make up for the defection of Russia. Upon the British and French armies devolved the duty of holding the German hordes, strengthened by large reinforcements from Russia, until the American forces could be raised, trained, and transported to France. Upon British shipping, already strained to the utmost by the tremendous task of transporting and provisioning the British armies, fell the greater share of