

GERMANY WILL SINK SHIPS WITH CREWS

**To Subordinate Consideration
of Humanity to Military
Necessity.**

Run Risk of Being Mistaken for Hostile Ship, Says Von Jagow.

BERLIN, via The Hague to London Feb. 9, 10.35 p.m.—Gottlieb von Jagow, the German foreign secretary, who is paying a short visit to Berlin during the absence of Emperor William on the eastern front, today received the correspondent of the Associated Press and explained to him the nature of the recently announced German naval measures to be taken against hostile coast-

there seemed to be some misapprehension abroad owing to the delay in the transmission of the memorandum accompanying the proclamation. The phrase "Submarine blockade," as used in the press discussion of the proclamation abroad, the foreign secretary said, perhaps also was responsible for this misapprehension.

ality staff, was not a declaration of a blockade," said Herr von Jagow. "All questions as to its validity premises on this theory, therefore, are excluded. The admiralty proclamation by the designation of waters around Great Britain and Ireland as a war area announces Germany's intention to conduct war operations in this region, and particularly to destroy commerce."

"England months ago declared in similar fashion the whole of the North Sea a war area. German warships heretofore have destroyed merchant ships belonging to the enemy only when there was every certainty that their passengers and crew could get away safely. But in future this forbearance must be subordinated to military considerations, now that Eng-

"Anyhow," continued Herr von Jagow, "hostile merchantmen have a claim to consideration if, as in part already has been the case, they are armed or offer resistance to the German naval forces. Since the British admiral on January 31 instructed

flaas, neutral ships, even without taking into consideration the unavoidable accidents of war, run the risk of being mistaken for hostile merchant ship and of falling victims to attacks intended for these ships.

"It was to this danger that the announcement particularly called attention.

Warns Neutrals Again.

"The German naval forces have

ence against neutral ships, so far as these are recognizable as such, but the confidential instruction by the British admiralty as to the use of neutral flags makes such identification a matter of extreme difficulty.

"Neutral shipping can, therefore, only be urgently warned again, as in earlier announcements, to avoid the indicated war zone until further notice."

GERMANS CHECKED

**Russian Offensive Threatens
to Drive Wedge and Turn
Position.**

LONDON, Feb. 9.—Chief interest in the war theatres lies in the fighting in the eastern zone, the operations in the west having lapsed into a period of calm, with only a few small engagements on narrow fronts, which can have little effect on the campaign as a whole.

Germans have been checked in their efforts to break the Russian line before Warsaw, and have transferred many of their troops to East Prussia to meet the Russian offensive in that region. This offensive has commenced to be a real danger to the Germans, as it threatened to drive a wedge between Tilsit and Insterburg and so to turn the fortified position in the extremely difficult country

If this movement succeeded the Russians would overrun a considerable part of East Prussia and would again be on their way to Königsberg and Danzig.

A Strategic Retreat?

The campaign in the Carpathians and in Galicia is not so easily followed as the official reports are exceedingly sparing in information. It is evident, however, that while the Russian

mountains is being pushed with strength and has proved partially successful it has been met by stronger opposition in the eastern passes with the result that the Russians have been compelled to fall back in Bukovina. They have repeatedly done this, only to give the Austrians battle when they debouched from the Russian end of the passes, and it is clear that this is their intention.

The operations are on such a large and complicated scale that it may be weeks before any definite decision is reached.