

# BRITISH COMMAND OF SEA, FROM BEGINNING OF WAR, DOOMS GERMANY TO DEFEAT

(By Archibald Hurd, Naval Expert of The London Telegraph.)

There is no better way of concealing the truth than to use trite phrases which have passed into our every day speech. They are so familiar that they make little impression on the mind; no one pauses to think what they mean. We can trace their atrophying process in religion, natural science and politics. Just now in all the Allied countries there is talk of "the command of the sea." Who stops to consider what the words mean? Who ever calculates what the cost in human life and treasure would have been had the Allies not had "command of the sea"? Who, again, ever examines the facts to ascertain exactly why the Allies possess this advantage?

What course, for instance, would the war have taken if the British fleet had stood by, had not intervened in the struggle? The naval situation at the moment when Germany determined to trample on Europe's freedom was not a little remarkable. By means of successive naval acts Germany had first overtaken Russia, then Italy, and finally France, and she could count on the support of the Austro-Hungarian navy, which under her guidance had greatly expanded until it rivaled that of Italy. The Germans had so completely out-distanced all the other Continental Powers of Europe in ships of war that on the outbreak of hostilities they with the co-operation of Austria-Hungary were absolutely assured of the command of the sea if the British fleet did not move. The two enemies had an enormous preponderance in effective ships of all classes over France and Russia, and those ships, every seaman admitted, would be handled with enterprise and skill. The relation of the four navies is not generally appreciated. The following statement showing the ships of the four countries on the outbreak of war reveals the preponderance possessed by the Central Powers:

	Germany Austria.	France.	Russia.	Total.
Battle ships	16	3	19	38
Battle cruisers	5	5	5	15
Pre-dreadnoughts	20	12	32	64
Armored cruisers	9	3	12	24
Cruisers	48	10	58	116
Destroyers	130	15	145	290
Torpedo boats	80	58	138	276
Submarines	30	6	36	72

## Barred German Landing on French Coast.

Sea command is still exercised by armored ships and cruisers. In the first line of battle, the dreadnought class, the odds were twenty-four to four at the outbreak of war. In the second, thirty-two to twenty-seven, but of the Russian ships several were shut up in the Baltic. In armored cruisers the strength of France and Russia—the ships being mainly obsolescent—was more apparent on paper than real, and in scouting ships the Central Powers had no mean advantage. Even if Italy had joined the Powers of the dual alliance, Germany and Austria-Hungary, with strategic advantages of no mean value, would have possessed a sufficient margin against their opponents.

There would have been no blockade of the North Sea. What of that? It may be said, Well, it would have meant that the Germans could, with slight risk, have transported troops to any point on the French coast. The value of superior sea power in amphibious warfare is the element of strategic surprise which it confers on its possessor. A German army might have been landed on a Saturday and early in the following week might have been landed on some portion of the French coast, taking the French army in the rear or flank. The advantage of the Germans would have been in the ignorance—unavoidable ignorance—of the French authorities of the spot chosen for disembarkation. The British fleet would have been tied in the Mediterranean by the menace of Austria-Hungary and the German navy would have had no difficulty, owing not to superior seamanship but to superior numbers, in sealing the command of the North Sea and English Channel. The sea in itself is no defence to a country like France, but a menace in the absence of naval protection, for armies can be moved in these circumstances more easily by water than by land.

Would it have been a matter of no consequence if the Germans had had the power of strategic surprise in their hands? There is good reason to believe that they had laid their plans for the invasion of France from the sea. It is reported that they had transports ready, as well as the troops to put in them, on the assumption that the British people, secure in their island, would conclude that the war was none of their business. But that is not all. The Germans would not only have obtained this overwhelming military advantage, but would have been able to shut off all French overseas commerce. Think what that would have meant! No merchant ships throughout the duration of the war would have been able to enter or leave French ports without running the gauntlet of the enemy's patrols—cruisers, destroyers and submarines.

Nor again is that all. France and Russia had no men-of-war of great fighting weight in the outer seas; the Germans were represented by some of their most powerful and swift cruisers. What would have been the fate of the mercantile marine of France? These merchant vessels represented in value many king's ransoms. About sixteen thousand sailing ships and two thousand steamships would have been in danger, together with their cargoes. What the fate of many of them would have been may be judged from the exploits of the Emden, Konigsberg and other enemy cruisers before they were destroyed. Russia's merchant ships would have shared the same misfortune.

Strength of British Fleet Cause of German Hate.

For the period of the war—how long would it have lasted? Russia and France would have been to all intents and purposes, besieged. Neither country would have been able to use the sea for any purpose. That condition would have reacted on their military and economic power. They would have been in a position to bring in no food, raw materials nor munitions. The Germans, and not the countries of the Dual Alliance, would have had the run of the neutral markets of the world for munitions, men and money. On the American continent alone there were about 20,000,000 Germans and Austrians, who could have supplied not only men to reinforce the armies of the Central Powers in Europe, but men to make munitions and other men of great financial and industrial experience—some of them millionaires—to assist Germany in getting gold, raw materials for all purposes, and even luxuries. Life behind the lines of the German armies would have continued much as under peace conditions. The population of the German empire were eager for war because they believed that even if Italy joined Russia and France they could count on

## Tobacco Heart

CURED BY  
Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills.

Tobacco does not seem to affect all alike. Many men enjoy their smoke, live to a good old age, and apparently suffer no ill effects from the use of the weed.

There are others, though, on whose heart and nervous system tobacco produces the most serious results. It causes palpitation, pain in the heart and irregularity of its beat, makes the hands tremble, sets the nerves on edge, and the breath becomes short. To counteract this demoralizing influence on the heart and nerves there is no remedy that equals Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills. They make me feel like a new man.

Mr. Nelson Young, Brampton, Ont., writes: "I have had, up to about a month ago, a very weak heart, which I suppose came from smoking cigarettes. When I heard of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills as a cure, I at once began to take them, and started using them. It does you justice to be the founder of such a great remedy. They made me feel like a new man."

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took up its war stations, this truth was not realized as it is realized today, because we did not then know the real heart of Germany. With the intervention of the British fleet Germany's confident assurance of victory was undermined.

The predominant influence on the history of the world has been not the soldier but the sailor. A Frenchman once said that it was the ships of Nelson which won the battle of Waterloo. England has never possessed a great army, nor has the United States. When the German emperor read the books of the American seaman Admiral Mahan he determined that he must have a great fleet, because from the days of Xerxes and the Persians navies have decided the fate of empires. It might be said that all the decisive battles of the world have been fought on the seas. That would seem a bold statement, but it is a clear approximation to the truth. Without sea power land power—that is, soldiers—must be impeded and in modern economic conditions may well be reduced to starvation—starvation for want of shells as food.

In the present war the two-to-one British fleet, with the co-operation of the French fleet, has won the sea. The great navy of France, Italy and Russia, wrested victory from Germany because which he had won when captured on the memorable day of last April. With the aid of a sharp knife he effected a partial transformation, cutting all the straight and sharp points, removing the bulky pockets and ripping away every trace of braid or decoration. It was a nondescript old suit which emerged from the ordeal, and sufficiently un-British not to attract home need not worry about their imprisoned friends. Most of

## STORY OF ESCAPE FROM GERMANY

Major Anderson Eluded Guard and Transformed Uniform Into Shabby Suit—Saxons Kindly to Canadians

(Correspondence Toronto Telegram.)

London, Oct. 26.—After six months of captivity and a journey full of hairbreadth escapes, Major Peter Anderson of the Third Battalion, a Toronto regiment, prior to the war a wealthy brick manufacturer of Edmonton, is back again under the Union Jack, breathing the air of freedom.

Surrounded by overwhelming masses of Germans after the battle of Ypres, the major, one of the few survivors of the companies in the neighborhood, had perforce to surrender. In due course, he, together with a number of Toronto men, Major Arthur Kirgipatich, Captain Straight and others, was taken to the officers' prisoners-of-war camp at Kreiselaneneulagen, Blieshofenwerder, Saxony. And here he remained in confinement until a couple of weeks ago.

He will vouchsafe no information whatever. Anyhow he managed to elude the guard and to make his way through the barbed-wire fences which surround the camp. Once out he discovered a place of hiding where he performed a lightning change operation in the way of apparel.

A Transformation.

It was obviously impossible to travel through Germany in the uniform of a Canadian officer. And that was the only garb he had—the shabby clothes which he had worn when captured on the memorable day of last April. With the aid of a sharp knife he effected a partial transformation, cutting all the straight and sharp points, removing the bulky pockets and ripping away every trace of braid or decoration. It was a nondescript old suit which emerged from the ordeal, and sufficiently un-British not to attract home need not worry about their imprisoned friends. Most of

## Coughed Almost All Night

WITH THAT  
DRY, TICKLING SENSATION  
IN HER THROAT.

How many people have lost a good night's sleep by that nasty tickling sensation in the throat?

The dry, hard cough keeps you awake, and when you get up in the morning you feel as if you had had no rest at all. Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup is a specific for just this kind of a cough, as it is composed of the most soothing and healing expectorant herbs, roots and barks known to medical science. I thought I would try the second one, and I am pleased to say "Dr. Wood's" resulted in a complete cure.

There is nothing that can take the place of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. There is nothing "just as good."

"Dr. Wood's" has been on the market for the past twenty-five years. It is put up in a yellow wrapper; three pine trees the trade mark; price, 25c and 50c.

Manufactured only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

Danish frontier are not relaxed, but somehow he worked his way through Saxony towards the little kingdom on the Baltic. Once across the border the Canadian refugee met with the greatest kindness and presently the sojourner got in touch with the British consul, who specially arranged his passage to England.

## Treated With Kindness.

From what Major Anderson told a friend of the writer's, the Canadian officers at this Saxon camp with the lengthy name aforementioned, are receiving very good treatment at the hands of their captors. And, unlike the prisoners of state that they are obliged in their letters rigorously censored by the Germans, to state that they are receiving good treatment, whether or no, Major Anderson may now speak freely. He declares that relatives at home need not worry about their imprisoned friends. Most of

the captured Toronto officers are among those at his old camp and he states that they are well fed, comfortably clothed and housed, and treated with consideration. The Saxons have shown themselves to be the most kindly-disposed of all the Germans.

It is understood that parcels sent by friends through the Red Cross here are being safely delivered.

Since his return to England, Major Anderson has been a visitor at the War Office, where it is said he was interrogated thoroughly concerning the condition of the prisoners' camps in Germany. He is one of the very few who have managed to escape. The major, who is in excellent health despite his long sojourn in Germany, is naturally delighted to be free once more and will probably get leave to go back to Canada for a month or more.

Since his arrival in England, four days ago, he had been staying in London, but last night went down to Shorncliffe Camp to see Major-General Steele and a few old comrades. He will probably report there for duty, prior to getting leave to go to Canada.

A levy of British newspapermen besieged the major's hotel in Russell Square when they learned of his arrival, but the soldier had nothing to say to them. There are official reasons for his reticence.

"That rich uncle of mine offered me my choice between a new house or a new motor car," said Tompkins, proudly.

"And which did you take?" asked his friend.

"The car of course."

"But I thought you were always hankering about a newer and bigger house?"

"SI I was, but I thought that if I had a motor car I would be in the house much anyway."

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Relieve Constipation while Healing the Kidneys

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Doctors declare that cough-cures containing opium, morphine, or paregoric should never be given to children, save under medical directions. Most cough mixtures contain those things; Veno's Lightning Cough Cure does not. Veno's is guaranteed poison-free, and the ideal children's cough remedy. All kinds of children's coughs yield to Veno's—even whooping cough, however violent.

Awarded Grand Prix and Gold Medal, International Health Exhibition, Paris, 1910.

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Keep in practice. Not only because the training may prove useful—perhaps necessary—but chiefly because of the keen enjoyment you will derive from this most interesting sport.

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Dominion Ammunition is always accurate and dependable. The choicest materials, skillful workmanship, thorough inspection and a system of testing that is scientifically correct—all enter into the production of Dominion Ammunition.

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MANY a wife is just in that weak physical condition, when it is a constant effort to "keep up." The hundred and one household cares take more than her strength can stand. She is weak—tired out. Don't let your wife drag on from day to day in this way. Get Wincarnis—the famous English tonic that has brought renewed health to thousands. Wincarnis is a liquid food—recommended by over ten thousand physicians in writing.

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