



WHY THE KAISER WANTS CALAIS!

A map intended to show the German plan of blocking the English Channel and providing a clear lane by which troops could cross from Calais to Dover.

Calais to Dover—So Easy!

The German Plan of Invading England Explained by a Naval Expert

EMPEROR WILLIAM will never get Calais, but it is interesting to note the plans which these impudent Germans have made with Calais as a base. According to the plan of that German dream by a naval expert for the New York Herald, all that is necessary is to clear a lane in the Channel. After that German transit from Calais to Dover would be about as simple as running a ferry service from Montreal to St. Helen's Island, or, from Halifax to Dartmouth. No doubt the German naval engineers and tacticians are quite too serious about this to see any humour of the fantastically improbable in such a scheme. The naval expert shows how seriously the Germans take themselves over this business when he writes:

"To the popular mind the possession of Calais means the possibility of the Germans shelling Dover, but to military men it means a great deal more. Once the Germans are able to reach Calais they will be in a position to mount guns which will clear the centre stretch of water between the Calais jetties and the Admiralty pier of all nesting mines. This can be accomplished by counter mining through the medium of high explosive shells.

"The shores of Dover, it is known, are to-day blocked with anchored mines. There are leads through these mine fields which are known only to the government pilots, but a vessel attempting to pass through the straits without the assistance of a duly accredited British pilot would to-day be blown to pieces. Before the Germans could make use of the straits it would be necessary to clear the intervening water of mines through counter mining, and the quickest way would be to have recourse to high explosive shells.

"This method of counter mining was arranged for by the American government in 1898, when the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius was held in readiness to blow out a channel through the medium of high explosive shells had it been deemed necessary to force an entrance into Santiago or Havana. The inventor of the dynamite gun, Captain E. S. Zalinski, was known to regard the guns of the Vesuvius as especially well adapted, because of the high explosive used in the dynamite gun shells, for blowing out mine fields.

"Now modern high powered German guns using high explosive shells are able to do all and more than was ever claimed for the guns of the Vesuvius.

"The water between Calais and Dover is at no point of greater depth than thirty fathoms. For a width of about three miles in the centre of the straits the water depth ranges from twenty-six to thirty fathoms. On either side of this strip of water the depths gradually decrease toward either shore, shoaling up to about six fathoms on the French side and to seven fathoms on the English side.

"The currents in the Dover Strait, while strong with certain tides and winds, are not too great to permit of effective mine fields being established, and it can be put down as a certainty that once the Germans have blown a free passageway across the channel they will line both sides of this passageway with protecting mine lines. With a patrol of submarines doing picket duty inside these protecting barriers of mine defences it would be next to impossible for an opposing fleet to break through the passageway.

"This is the danger which confronts England to-day if by any chance the Germans in their new drive succeed in hacking their way through to Calais. The danger is an imminent one when it is known that at this writing not fewer than ten German army corps are known to be en route to that point of the western lines immediately in front of Calais.

"The Germans' advanced position is estimated to be at a point not more than fifteen miles east of Dunkirk. The German long range artillery fire has reached Dunkirk from a point estimated at nineteen and a half miles away. The artillery position is in the rear of the advanced German lines. From Dunkirk to Calais is 19.42 miles.

"While it is known that the British possess long range guns of the navy pattern, it has been demonstrated that the Krupp pieces are outranging in this war any weapon which the Allies have been able to bring into action, and it is conceded that once the Germans are able to blaze a clear passage across the strait they will not be hindered from advancing high powered guns into the strait itself or vessels specially adapted to carrying single guns of high power. The securing of a foothold on the Dover coast, with the ability to rush high powered guns across to hold any ground so taken, would mean the clearing of the land in the rear of Dover and the rendering all the more secure of the strait passageway.

"It is a knowledge of the foregoing that is causing the deepest concern in England to-day."

A Song of the New Armies

A. GLYN PRYS-JONES.

Right, left, right, left, footing it with a swing,
Half a million Englishmen a-serving of the King,
Half a million gentlemen not afraid to die,
They've sacrificed a thing or two, and know the reason why,
(They've heard the case, they've got the grace, and now they've fish to fry!)
And so they're off to Flanders in the morning.

Dry road, wet road, they seldom make a fuss.
They never shirk the smell of work, they never grouse or cuss.
They're brown and tough and splendid stuff as ever you'd wish to see.
(The more the weight at the back of the scrum, the sooner to the Spree!)
And so they're off to Flanders in the morning.

Blue boys, true boys, prowling on the sea,
Up and down, and to and fro, to keep Britannia free.
It's dirty work and shirty work and little rest for bones,
(And p'raps a trip at the end of it to Mister Davy Jones!)
But they'll see 'em safe to Flanders in the morning.

Bright birds, light birds, buzzing along on high,
Soaring up and swooping down the prairies of the sky,
Telling the saucy Taube tales and seeing the Zeppelins home.
(Always risky, sometimes frisky, cutting the Kaiser's comb!)
And they'll help 'em on in Flanders in the morning.

Right, left, right, left, footing it with a swing,
Half a million Englishmen a-serving of the King.
Playing the game for England's name, called from town and wold,
Just the stuff their fathers were—heart's of purest gold—
(And may they all come back again to hear the story told
Of how they went to Flanders in the morning!)

ARE THERE JAP SHIPS IN BRITISH WATERS?



This is a picture of Japanese men-of-war sailors swaggering down London streets with some British soldiers. The question naturally arises—what are these Jap sailors doing in that part of the world?