

THE VICTORY AT SEA

By Admiral William Sowden Sims

AMERICAN NAVY ENTERS WHOLE-HEARTEDLY WITH ALLIES TO SPOIL GERMANY'S HOPE OF SUCCESS



IN MARCH, 1918, it became apparent that the German submarine campaign had failed, and consequently the cause of liberty throughout the world, had reached the point almost of desperation. On both land and sea the Germans seemed to hold the future in their hands. In Europe the armies of the central powers were everywhere in the ascendant. The French and British were holding their own in France, and in the Somme campaign they had apparently inflicted great damage upon the German forces, yet the disintegration of the Russian army, the unmistakable signs of which had already appeared, was bringing nearer the day when they would have to meet the unmitigated strength of their enemy. At the time in question, Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro were conquered countries, Italy seemed unable to make any progress against the Austrians, Bulgaria and Turkey had become practically German provinces, and the dream of a great Germanic western empire was rapidly approaching realization. So strong was Germany in a military sense, so little did she apprehend that the United States could ever assemble her resources and her men in time to make them a decisive element in the struggle, that the German war lords, in their effort to bring the European conflict to a quick conclusion, did not hesitate to take the step which was destined to make our country their enemy.

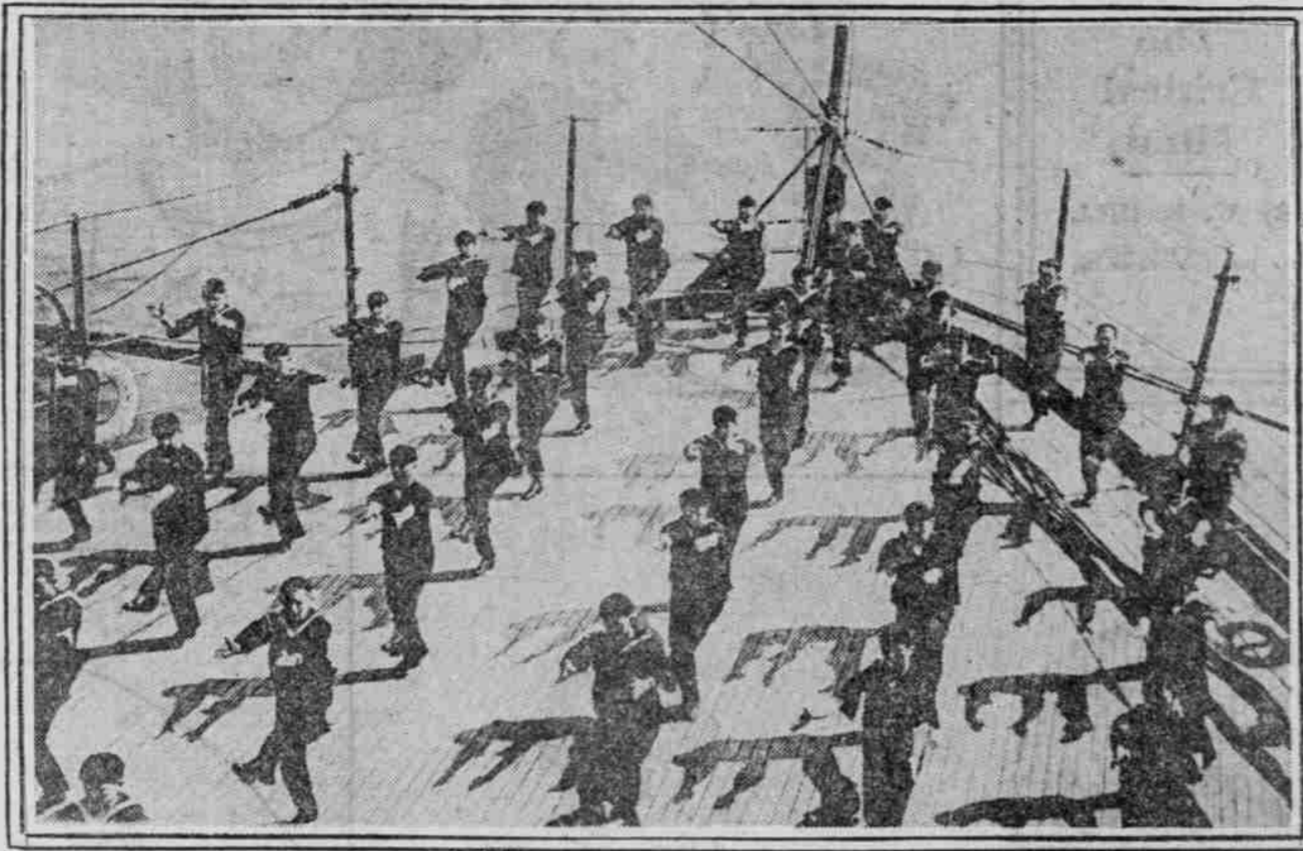
Germany Were Confident.
Probably no nation ever adopted a war measure with more confidence in its success. The results which the German submarines could accomplish seemed at that time to be simply a matter of mathematics. The German fleet, at least 1,000,000 tons a month, completely cut off Great Britain's supplies of food and war materials, and thus ended the war by October or November of 1918. Even though the United States should declare war, what could an unprepared nation like our own accomplish in such a brief period? Millions of troops we might indeed raise, but we could not train them in three or four months, and, even though we could perform such a miracle, it was ridiculous to suppose that we could transport them to Europe through the submarine danger zone.

I have already shown that the Germans were not alone in thus predicting the course of events. In the month of April, 1917, I had found the British officials just about as distressed as the Germans were jubilant. Already the latter, in sinking merchant ships, had had successes which almost equalled their own predictions; no adequate means of defence against the submarines had been devised; and the chiefs of the British navy made no attempt to disguise their apprehension for the future.

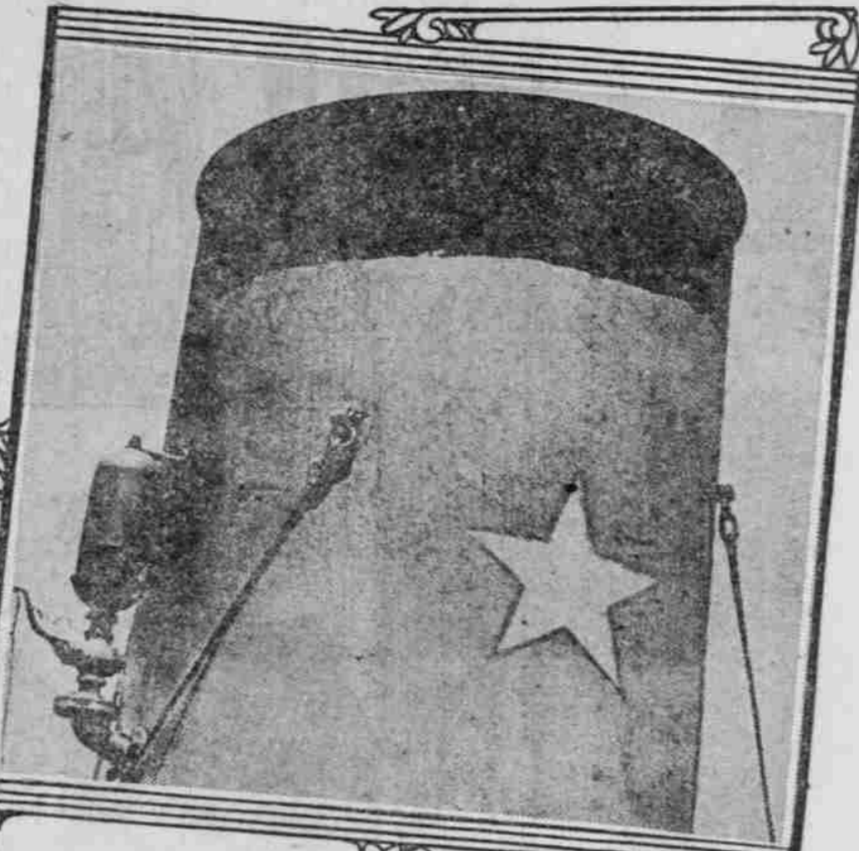
Naval Situation Completely Reversed.

Such was the atmosphere of gloom which prevailed in allied councils in April, 1917; yet one year later the naval situation had completely changed. The reasons for this have been set forth in the preceding pages. In that brief twelve months the relative position of the submarine had undergone a marked transformation. Instead of being usually the pursuer it was now often the pursued. Instead of sailing jauntily upon the high seas, sinking helpless merchant men almost at will, it was halfheartedly lying in wait along the coasts, seeking its victims in the vessels of dispersed convoys. If it attempted to push out to sea and attack a convoy, escorting destroyers were likely to deliver one of their dangerous attacks; if it sought the shallow coastal waters, a fleet of yachts, sloops and subchasers were constantly ready to assail it with dozens of depth charges. An attempt to cross the Strait of Dover meant almost inevitable destruction by mines; an attempt to escape into the ocean by the northern passage involved the momentary dread of a similar end; or the hazard of passing through the difficult Pentland Firth. In most of the narrow passages allied submarines lay constantly in wait with their torpedoes, a great fleet of airplanes and dirigibles was always circling above ready to rain a shower of bombs upon the under-water foe. Already the ocean floor about the British Isles held no less than 200 sunken submarines, with most of their crews, amounting to at least 4000 men, whose deaths involved perhaps the most hideous tragedies of the war.

Bad as was this situation, it was nothing compared with what it would become a few months or a year hence. American and British shipyards were turning out anti-submarine craft with great rapidity; the industries of America with their enormous output of steel, had been enlisted in the anti-submarine campaign. The American and British shipbuilding facilities were neutralizing the German campaign in two ways; they were not only constructing war vessels on a scale which would soon drive all the German submarines from the sea but they were building merchant tonnage so rapidly that, in March, 1918, more tonnage was launched than was being destroyed. Thus by this time the Teutonic hopes of ending the war by the submarine had utterly col-



Setting Up Exercises For The American Navy.

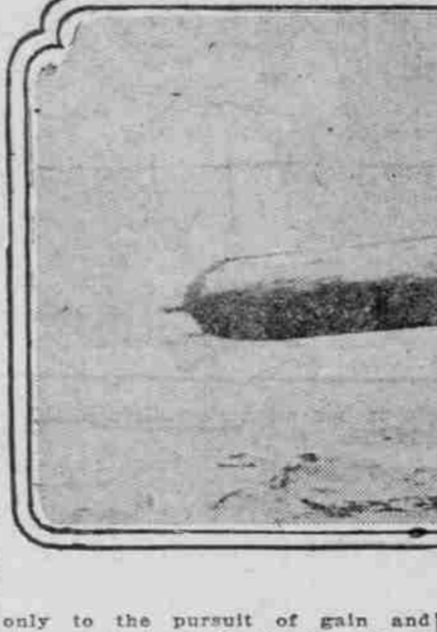


Each Star On The Smokestack Of A Submarine Chaser Means One Submarine Sunk.

lapsed; if the Germans were to win the war at all, or even to obtain a peace which would not be disastrous, some other programme must be adopted quickly.

Germany Turns Again to the Land.
Disheartened by their failure at sea, the enemy therefore turned their eyes once more toward the land. The destruction of Russian military power had given the German armies a great numerical superiority over those of the allies. There seemed little likelihood that the French or the British, after three years of frightfully grueling war, could add materially to their forces. Thus, with the grouping of the powers such as existed in 1917 the Germans had a tremendous advantage on their side, for Russia, which German statesmen for 25 years had feared as a source of inexhaustible man-supply to her enemies, had disappeared as a military power. But a new element in the situation now counter-balanced this temporary gain; that was the daily increasing importance of the United States in the war.

The Germans, who in 1917 had despised us as an enemy, immediate or prospective, now despised us no longer. The army, which they declared could never be raised and trained, was actually being raised and trained by the millions. The nation which their publicists had denounced as lacking cohesion and public spirit, was actually being united and strengthened by their declarations simultaneously with their declarations of war, and the people whom the Germans had affected in regard as devoted



Shooting A Torpedo.

only to the pursuit of gain and pleasure had manifested a unity and courage which they had never before displayed and had offered their lives, their labors and their wealth without limit to the cause of the allies. Up to March, 1918, only a comparatively small part of the American army had reached Europe, but the Germans had already tested its fighting quality and had learned to respect it. Yet all these manifestations would not have disturbed the German calculations except for one

depressing fact. Even a nation of 100,000,000 brave and energetic people, fully trained and equipped for war, is not a formidable foe so long as an impassable watery gulf of 3000 miles separates them from the field of battle.

For the greater part of 1917 the German people believed that their submarines could bar the progress of the American armies. By March, 1918, they had awakened from this delusion. Not only was an American army, millions strong, in process of formation, but the alarming truth



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now dawned upon the German mind that they could be transported to Europe.

Yet the situation, desperate as it seemed, held forth one more hope. If the German armies, which still greatly outnumbered the French and British, could strike and win a decisive victory before the Americans could arrive, then they might still force a satisfactory peace. "It is a race between Ludendorff and Wilson" is the terse and accurate way in which Lloyd George summed up the situation. The great blow fell on

March 21, 1918; the British and the French met it with heroism, but it was quite evident that they were fighting against terrible odds. At this time the American army in France numbered about 300,000 men; it now became the business of the American navy, assisted by the British, to transport the American troops who could increase these forces sufficiently to turn the balance in the Allies' favor.

The Navy's Supreme Task.

The supreme hour for which all the anti-submarine labors of the preceding year were merely preliminary, had now arrived. Since the close of the war, there has been much discussion of the part which the American navy played in bringing it to a successful end. Even during the war there was some criticism on this point. There were two more or less definite opinions in the public mind upon this question. One was that the main business of our war vessels was to convoy the American soldiers to France; the other emphasized the anti-submarine warfare as its most important duty. Any one would suppose, from the detached way in which these two subjects have been discussed, that the anti-submarine warfare and the successful transportation of troops were separate matters. An impression apparently prevails that, at the beginning of the war, the American navy could have quietly decided, without its own consent, to devote its energies to making warfare on the submarine or to conveying American

armies; yet the absurdity of such a conception must be apparent to any one who has read the foregoing pages. The several operations in which the allied navies engaged were all part of a comprehensive programme; they were completely interdependent. According to my idea, the business of the American navy was to join forces wholeheartedly with those of the allies in an attempt to win the war. Anything which helped to accomplish this great purpose became automatically our duty. Germany was basing her chances of success upon the submarine; our business was therefore to assist in defeating the submarine. The cause of the allies was our cause; our cause was the cause of the allies; anything which benefited the allies benefited the United States; and anything which benefited the United States benefited the allies. Neither we nor France nor England were conducting a separate campaign, we were separate units of a harmonious whole. At the beginning of the one pressing duty was to put an end to the sinking of merchantmen, not because these merchantmen were for the larger part British, but because the failure to do so would have meant the elimination of Great Britain from the war, with results which would have meant defeat for the other allies.

Our 12 months' campaign against the submarine was an invaluable preliminary to transporting the troops. Does any sane person believe that we could have put 2,000,000 Americans into France had the German submarines maintained until the spring and summer of 1918, the striking power which had been theirs in the spring of 1917? Merely to state the question is to answer it. In that same 12 months we had gained much experience which was exceedingly valuable when we began transporting troops. The most efficacious protection to merchant shipping, the convoy, was similarly the greatest safeguard to our military transports. These methods which had been so successfully used in shipping food, munitions and materials were now used in shipping soldiers. The section of the great merchant convoys which we had developed in London for routing convoys was used for routing transports, and the American naval officer, Byron A. Long, who had demonstrated such great ability in this respect was likewise the master mind in directing the course of the American soldiers to France.

Work at Brest.

In other ways we had laid the foundations for this, the great troop movement in history. In the preceding 12 months we had increased the oil tankage at Brest more than four-fold, sent over repair ships and augmented its repair facilities. This port and all of our naval activities in France were under the command first of Admiral William B. Fletcher and later Rear-Admiral Hildyard. It was a matter of regret that we could not earlier have made Brest the main naval base for the American naval forces in France, for it was in some respects strategically better located for that purpose than was any other port in Europe. Even for escorting certain merchant convoys into the channel Brest would have provided a better base than either Plymouth or Queenstown. A glance at the map explains why. To send destroyers from Queenstown to pick up convoys and escort them into the channel or to French ports and then return to their base involved a long triangular trip; to send such destroyers from Brest to escort these convoys involved a smaller amount of steaming and a direct east and west voyage. Similarly, Queenstown was a much better location for destroyers sent to most convoys bound for ports in the Irish sea over the northern "trunk line." But unfortunately it was utterly impossible to use the great natural advantages of Brest in the early days of war; the mere fact that this French harbor possessed most inadequate tankage facilities put it out of the question. It was also very deficient in docks, repair facilities, and other indispensable features of a naval base. At this time Brest was hardly more than able to provide for the requirements of the French, and it would have embarrassed our French allies greatly had we attempted to establish a large American force there. The ships which we did send in the first part of the war were mostly yachts, of the "dollar-a-year" variety, which their owners had generously given to the national service; their crews were largely of that type of young business man and college undergraduate to whose skill and devotion I have already paid tribute. This little flotilla acquitted itself splendidly up and down the coast of France. Meanwhile we were constructing fuel oil tanks; and, as soon as these were ready, and repair ships were available, we began building up a large force at Brest—a force which was ultimately larger than the one we maintained at Queenstown; at the height of the troop movements, it comprised about 35 destroyers, 12 yachts, 3 tenders and several minesweepers and tugs. The fine work which this detachment accomplished in escorting troop and supply convoys is a sufficient tribute to the skill acquired by the destroyers and other vessels in carrying out their duties in this peculiar warfare.

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MODERN BUSINESS MAN TURNS CITIES INTO BOWERS OF BEAUTY

Almost Overnight Residents Fail to Recognize Their Home When It Is Changed by Festive Dress to Receive Company.

(Continued From First Page.)
mache Shriners, the hand-painted window drapes, the huge collection of emblems and all of that vast collection is packed and shipped several times. It is difficult to estimate just what the investment is in this stock but the probabilities are that Goodman carries with him on his average invasion of a city after a big contract some quarters of a million dollars' worth of materials and the other necessary adjuncts to the trade.

Labor Problems Met.

In common with most other businesses in these times of scarce help Goodman has his labor problems, but he is at an advantage in that his concern, at least so far as the heads are concerned, is a family one. It seems to be a logical solution for difficulties of this sort, raise a family and train them up in the business. It says for them only do the Goodman boys take charge of the outside work and direct the efforts of the crews that install and remove the decorations, but the women of the family have their departments also, these charming ones and just as efficient in their lines, designing, bookkeeping and details, as are their men folks in the heavier work.

Speaking on loss of decorations some interesting angles were developed. For a nice collection of fun-loving boys it would be hard to duplicate the average Shriner irrespective of his age, and as they are just out for a good time and are going to have it no matter what the reason, they naturally go the limit. One of the queer traits of college boys has always been the collection of souvenirs, some of them of queer origin, but the fezzed nobles can give them cards and spades and get an easy win at this devoted game, for some of them have devoted years to the perfection of the art of pilfering. At Seattle some 75 of the new and then novel crescents and scimitars were claimed surreptitiously as tokens by the visitors. The committee in charge cheerfully faced the loss for

they figured that it was merely an appreciation of their work and was, in reality, a sincere tribute that was being paid them, that their visitors should wish some little thing to remind them of their happy visit.

Nobles Loot Portland.

If this be a criterion of popularity then Portland takes all the cakes and other confectionery in the bake-shop, for the pilfering was unparalleled in Shrine annals while the gang was here. They must have all taken some little remembrance with them, the gifts which they bestowed on themselves ranging from several life-sized camels, a live bear, a whole forest of palms and some of the gang are understood to even have designs on some of the fair daughters of the Rose City. Anyhow the committee in charge of the trimming up of this city are certain that there is not one single noble in the entire world that does not at least have, among his assortment of loot at the sacking of Portland, several yards of bunting, half a hundred electric globes, a camel or two and several luxuriant palms. The great advantage of this, and it is properly appreciated by the Portland hosts, is that the nobles in gatherings will exhibit their trophies with great glee and gusto, and the tale of their gutting the famed city of roses will never lose one jot in the telling and they will always have some little thing with them to recall the great time they had in Portland in 1920. Goodman insists that Holla of Dallas, Tex., while in Seattle, grabbed off an entire truck load of their stuff, enough to install one of the most elaborate initiation sets in the country. They get a great deal of pleasure gloating over their spoils and as the actual value is not so great when contrasted with the advertising the city gets it is not likely that Portland will arrange with the governors of other states to extradite any of the criminals, though some of the members of the local committee did get rather warm under the collar when they first realized the extent of the depredations of the

wild tribesmen who assaulted and looted the city.

In closing it might be well to state that Goodman was not the only little fairy at work in Portland, for here he found a breed of pixies purely local to the soil, of great experience and with a power fully as potent as that he possessed. There is George Hutchings, who must never be forgotten when it comes to creating masterpieces, for his electric parade was the real high spot in the shrine visit and the great achievement of the Rose Festival, just as it has been in the past before it was recreated this year. Then there are the myriads of the park commission, the gnomes and elves who tickle the soil of Portland so that it produces floral wonders that astound the rest of the world. This year they went themselves proud in their installation in the park blocks and their formal gardens were a real knockout and it is doubtful if they can ever be paralleled any place on earth.

But Goodman, fairy wand and all, is the real transformer of cities, and he has established an altogether new and novel line of business and one that is deservedly successful from the amount of time and thought that he has lavished in its creation. Fairy wands in these real hard practical days are really nothing more than a set of good strong hands directed by a reasoning head that can vision what it wants and then direct the achievement.

Dislike For Germans Widespread.

LONDON.—Dr. Sthamer, the German charge in London, is having great difficulty in establishing the German embassy here because London traders men refuse to bid for the work of outfitting the embassy. This is attributed to widespread dislike for Germans resulting from the war, but the German diplomats profess to be unable to understand this feeling against them.

London Buyers in Manila Market.

MANILA, P. I.—Buyers for the London trade have entered the Manila hemp market and it was announced today that one lot of 60,000 bales of United Kingdom grades had been sold to a representative of British concerns. According to the purchaser the heap is for cordage manufacturing of England, and the price paid for the product is said to have been around \$26.50 a bale.

BAS-RELIEFS OF HISTORIC SALEM LIFE, WOMAN'S WORK

Miss Sarah Symonds Inherits Talent From Great Uncle Who Was Potter to King of Holland—Orders Received for Plaques Exceed Supply.

BY MARY HARROD NORTHEED.

SHOULD you be in the historical city of Salem you could but notice the bas-reliefs in many of the shop windows. This is the work of Miss Sarah Symonds, artist, who inherited her talent from her great-uncle, who was potter to the king of Holland.

From her childhood she drew all sorts of pictures and these showed such a decided talent it was decided to finish her education in an art school. Before she had even taken one lesson she conceived the idea of making a model of the Salem witch. This was done partly as an experiment and partly to carry out an idea that she had long cherished of creating in bas-relief, rather than photographs, which are so perishable, different phases of historic Salem life.

The witch plaque took, and the demand far exceeded her expectations; in fact, it became so popular that she was scarcely able to fill orders. The next step was in coloring—choosing the right tones to represent the witch figure, shown as riding a broomstick.

These plaques, in sepias and colors, are in all sizes, ranging from the medallion to the large square bas-reliefs that are suitable, if one wishes, to frame for wall hangings. Her first experiment was made at home, where a small kiln was used for firing, but this was only for a few months, and today she has taken over a whole house for her work, the upper part being used as a work-room and the lower part most artistically fitted up as a show room. The clerks are all dressed in 17th century costumes.

Not only houses, but porches, pergolas and bits of the garden are ordered. These mean generally but one bas-relief, which makes it prohibitive save for the rich.

There is no part of the year which is a dull time for her. Of course, during the summer months, when ex-gibias are held in all the large hotels, she is busiest. Later on come holiday orders, which are increasing every year. In fact, so prosperous has been her work that she has recently purchased a large colonial house and this in addition to her studio.

This work is unique from the fact that everything originates in her own brain. She has no understudy and claims she does not need or desire one.