

GERMANY THE NEXT REPUBLIC?

BY CARL W. ACKERMAN

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Germany Believed That Her Submarine Campaign Would Bring Her Victory Before Her American Enemies Had an Opportunity to Make Themselves Felt Along the Lines of Battle, but the Allies Managed to Hold on Long Enough to Keep Off a Decision Until Our Aid Arrived

"The Best-Laid Plans" of the German Military and of the Foreign Office Were Rudely Upset by the Turn of Events in Russia After the Revolution Deposed the Pro-Teutons and by the Seriousness of Purpose Which Has Characterized the United States' Efforts Since War Was Declared

DURING the first three months of 1917 submarine warfare was a success in that it so decreased the ship tonnage and the importations of the Allies that they needed American co-operation and assistance. So the United States really enters the war at the critical and decisive stage. Germany believes she can continue to sink ships faster than they can be built, but Germany did not calculate upon a fleet of wooden-bottom vessels being built in the United States to make up for the losses.

Germany did not expect the United States to enter the war with all the vigor and energy of the American people. Germany calculated upon internal troubles, upon opposition to the war and upon the pacifists to have America make as many mistakes as England did during the first two years of the war. But the United States has learned and profited by careful observation in Europe. Just as England's declaration of war on Germany in support of Belgium and France was a surprise to Germany; just as the shipment of war supplies by American firms to the Allies astonished Germany, so will the construction of 3000 wooden vessels upset the calculations of the German General Staff.

While American financial assistance will be a great help to the Allies, that will not affect the German calculations, because when the Kaiser and his generals decided on the twenty-seventh of January to damn all neutrals German financiers were not consulted.

Calculations That Missed Fire

Neither did the German General Staff count upon the Russian revolution going against them. Germany had expected a revolution there, but Germany bet upon the Czar and the Czar's German wife. As Lieutenant Colonel von Haefen, chief military censor in Berlin, told the correspondents, Germany calculated upon the internal troubles in Russia aiding her. But the Allies and the people won the Russian revolution. Germany's hopes that the Czar might again return to power or that the people might overthrow their present democratic leaders will come to naught now that America has declared war and thrown her tremendous and unlimited moral influence behind the Allies and with the Russian people.

Rear Admiral Hollweg's calculations that 24,253,615 tons of shipping remained for the world's freight transmission at the beginning of 1917 did not take into consideration confiscation by the United States of nearly 2,500,000 tons of German and Austrian shipping in American ports. He did not expect the United States to building 3000 new ships in 1917. He did not expect the United States to purchase the ships under construction in American yards for neutral European countries.

The German submarine campaign, like all other German "successes," will be temporary. Every time the General Staff has counted upon "ultimate victory" it has failed to take into consideration the determination of the enemy. Germany believed



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that the world could be "knocked out" by big blows. Germany thought when she destroyed and invaded Belgium and northern France that these two countries would not be able to "come back." Germany thought when she took Warsaw and a great part of western Russia that Russia would not be able to continue the war. Germany figured after the invasion of Rumania and Serbia that these two countries would not need to be considered seriously in the future. Germany believed that her submarine campaign would be successful before the United States could come to the aid of the Allies. German hope of "ultimate victory" has been postponed ever since September, 1914, when Von Kluck failed to take Paris. And Germany's hopes for an "ultimate victory" this summer before the United States can get into the war will be postponed so long that Germany will make peace not on her own terms, but upon the terms which the United States of Democracy of the Whole World will dictate.

One day in Paris I met Admiral LeCaze, the Minister of Marine, in his office in the Admiralty. He discussed the submarine warfare from every angle. He said the Germans, when they figured upon so many tons of shipping and of supplies destroyed by submarines, failed to take into consideration the fact that more than one hundred ships were arriving daily at French ports and that more than five million tons of goods were being brought into France monthly.

When I explained to him what it appeared to me would be the object of the German ruthless campaign, he said: Germany cannot win the war by her submarine campaign

or by any other weapon. That side will win which holds out one week, one day or one hour longer than the other.

And this admiral, who, dressed in civilian clothes, looked more like a New York financier than a naval officer, leaned forward in his chair, looked straight at me and concluded the interview by saying: "The Allies will win."

"Why Do They Call Us Huns and Barbarians?"

During the Somme battles several of the American correspondents in Berlin were invited to go to the front near Peronne and were asked to luncheon by the Bavarian General von Kirchhoff, who was in command against the French. When the correspondents reached his headquarters in a little war-torn French village they were informed that the Kaiser had just summoned the general to decorate him with the high German military order, the Pour le Merite. Luncheon was postponed until the general returned. The correspondents watched him motor to the chateau where they were and were surprised to see tears in his eyes as he stepped out of the automobile and received the cordial greetings and congratulations of his staff. Von Kirchhoff, in a brief impromptu speech, paid a high tribute to the German troops which were holding the French and said the decoration was not his but his troops'. And in a broken voice he remarked that these soldiers were sacrificing their lives for the Fatherland, but were called "Huns and barbarians" for doing it. There was another long pause and the general broke down, cried and had to leave his staff and guests.

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These indictments of the Allies were more terrible to him than the war itself.

General von Kirchhoff in this respect is typical of Germany. Most Germans, virtually every German I knew, could not understand why the Allies did not respect their enemies as the Germans said they respected the Allies.

A few weeks later, in November, when I was on the Somme with another group of correspondents, I was asked by nearly every officer I met why it was that Germany was so hated throughout the world. It was a question I could not easily answer without perhaps, hurting the feelings of the men who wanted to know me, insulting them, which as a guest I did not desire to do.

A few days later on the train from Cambrai to Berlin I was asked by a group of officers to explain why the people in the United States, especially, were so bitter. To get the discussion under way the captain from the General Staff who had acted as

Strigennummer 120.

ULK

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Der neue alte Präsident. "Es lebe Amerika! Es lebe die Ammunitionfabriken!"

A GERMAN CARTOON
"The new old President—Long live America! Long live peace! Long live the ammunition factories!"

our escort presented his indictment of American neutrality and asked me to reply.

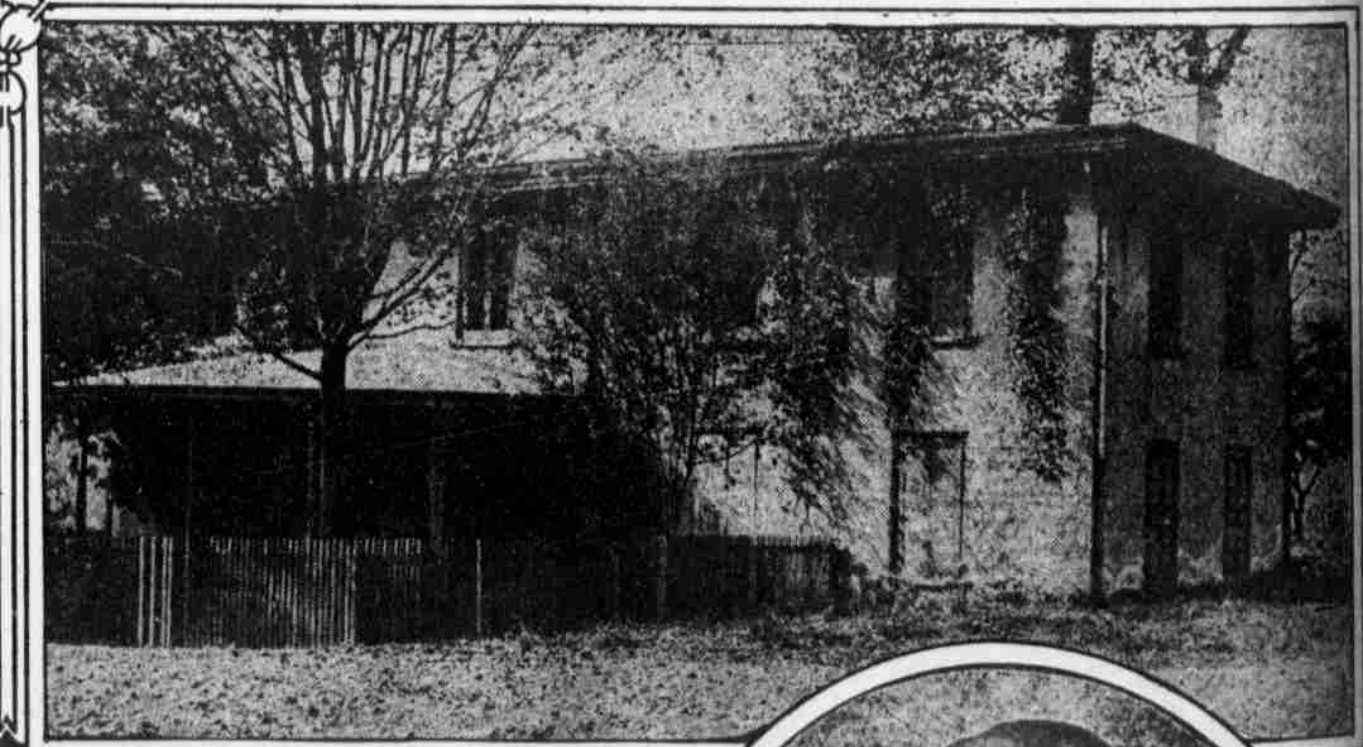
This feeling, this desire to know why Germany was regarded as an outlawed nation, was not present in Germany early in 1915 when I arrived. In February, 1915, people were confident. They were satisfied with the progress of the war. They knew the Allies hated them and they returned the hate and did not care. But between February, 1915, and November, 1916, a great change took place. On my first trip to the front in April, 1915, I heard of no officers or men shedding tears because the Allies hated them.

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

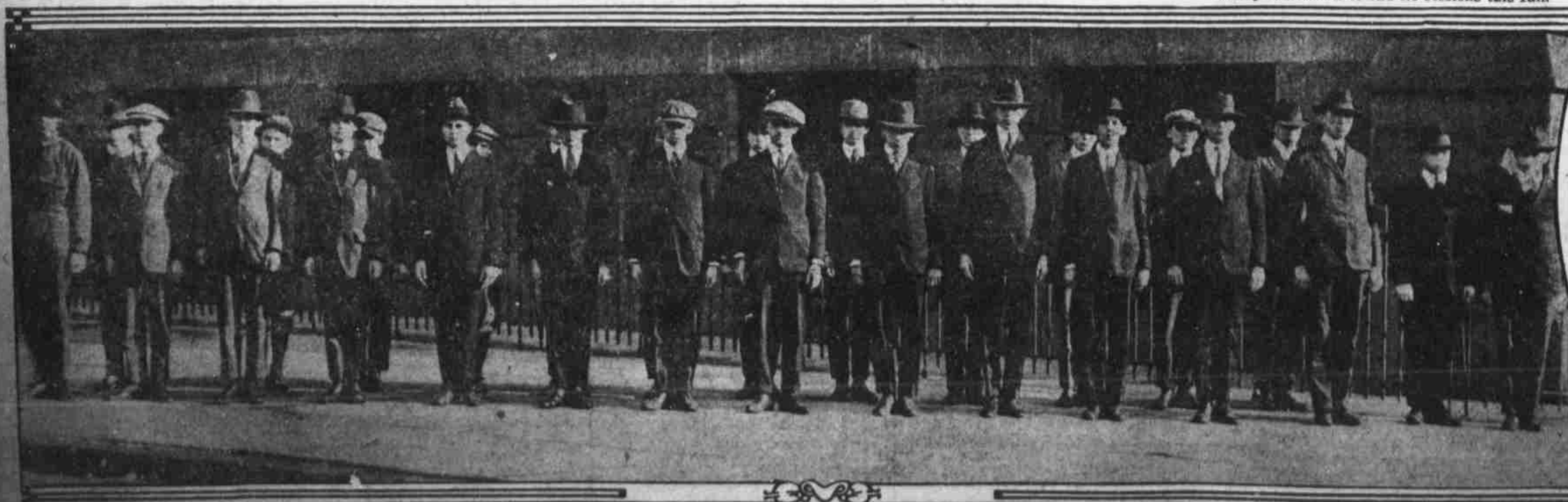
PICTORIAL PRESENTATION OF THE DAY'S NEWS EVENTS IN PHILADELPHIA AND ELSEWHERE



Official British War Photograph.
BRITISH STRETCHER-BEARERS SNATCHING A MUCH-NEEDED REST AMONG THE RUINS OF A 'FLANDERS VILLAGE JUST WRESTED FROM THE GERMANS



FRIENDS' SCHOOL CLOSURES AFTER 200 YEARS
Insufficient enrollment has caused this quaint Darby institution to end its sessions this fall.



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DRILL EACH MORNING UNDER SUPERVISION OF PROF. WILLIAM V. HAINES, WHO ATTENDED THE FIRST OFFICERS' TRAINING CAMP AT FORT NIAGARA



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Clude B. Atchison, formerly of the Oregon State Rail Road Commission, is the new Republican of the Federal rate board.