GERMANY THE NEXT REPUBLIC?

By Carl Lackerman

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So Great Had Become the Looms Attending the U-Boat Campaign Against England That the German Admiralty Began to Draw Up Plans for Submarine Warfare in Less Dangerous Waters—To This End They Started Training Large Numbers of Sailors

When the Berlin Foreign Office Assured the United States After the Sueses Sinking That Ruthless Torpedoing Would Cease It Meant Only Until Such Time as Germany Could Build Enough Submarines Successfully to Dely the American Government

GERMANY'S submarines, which was introduced in February, 1916, began by sinking less than 10,000 tons of ships per month. By November, 1917, the amount of tonnage destroyed per month was close to 200,000 tons. By January, 1916, the tonnage of ships destroyed by submarines had fallen to under 10,000 tons. In April, 1916, as Grand Admiral von Tirpitz's followers made one more effort to make the submarine warfare successful, nearly 115,000 tons were being destroyed a month. But after the sinking of the Lusitania and the growing possibility of war with the United States the submarine warfare was again held back and in July less than 10,000 tons of shipping were destroyed.

The U-Boats Change Their Plans

At the time the submarine campaign itself underwent a change. Possibly most of the ships destroyed were sunk off the coast of England, France or in the Mediterranean. During the fall of the Lusitania, the submarine campaign the Allies adopted the method of catching and destroying submarines became so effective it was not the only to destroy the U-boats. The German navy had tried all kinds of schemes but none was very successful. After the sinking of the Lusitania the Admiralty placed its submarines to work together, but this was not as successful as it might have been. During May, June and July the submarine warfare was virtually given up, as the ships of Allied navies destroyers and were ready to meet the new threat.

On February 1, when the Kaiser defied the United States by threatening all neutral shipping in European waters, Germany had 400 submarines built or in course of construction. This included 130, the U-boat, with a cruising radius of 2500 miles, and the smaller craft, with fifteen-day radius for war against England, as well as supply ships and mine layers. But as these submarines were not completed nearly 100 were waiting for trained crews or were being completed in German shipyards. It was often said in Berlin that the greatest lesson when a submarine failed to return was thecrew. It required more time to train the new men to hold a submarine. According to Germany's U-boat method of construction, a submarine can be built in fifteen days. Parts are stamped out in the factories and assembled at the wharves. But it takes from sixty to ninety days to educate the men and get them accustomed to the working motion of the U-boat. Besides, it requires experimental efforts to train the new men.

Honored for Bravery

To meet this demand Germany began months ago to train men who could hold the greatest submarines. At a school was established—School of Submarine Murder—where for many months the men who operated the U-boats was made chief of the staff of education. The first submarine was to begin in August. By the time it was decided, however, to make a submarine campaign off the Allied coasts, to operate in the Atlantic off the coasts of France and Norway. This method of submarines proved very successful and by November, 1916, Germany was sinking over 40,000 tons of Allied shipping

This event in the history of the submarine campaign the United States again attacked on the European coast of the United States.

It was found here were sufficient submarines to defeat the United States. At ease the German navy, which has always been anti-American, began building submarines night and day. Every new submarine was produced as fast as possible. It was to show the naval authorities whether their plans for an attack on American shipping would be practical. U-32 failed to bserve the United States, but it proved to the Admiralty that extensions to American waters were feasible.

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"Kaiser Wilhem decorated the commander of the U-boat which sank the Lusitania with the highest military order, the Pour le Merite."