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REPORTS

O.N.I.

**AUGUST 1914**

**NWC ARCHIVES**

August 1914 - 58

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DECLASSIFICATION OF WWII RECORDS

*Germany*

**SUBJECT** EUROPEAN WAR 1914.- German  
Military Laws to prevent publication of  
Military and Naval Information.

*From* Z *No.* 183 *Date* August 1, 1914. 19

*Replying to O. N. I. No.* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_, 19

The following order was made public  
 yesterday afternoon:-

" According to § 10 of the Law against the betrayal of military secrets of June 3, 1914 ( Reichsgesetzblatt S.195 ) I forbid until further orders the publication of news relating to movements of troops and ships, or means of defense, except that the publication of such news has been expressly approved by the competent military authority.

Competent for the approval are the General Commands ( General Kommandos), the acting general commands, the Naval Station Chiefs and the Military Governor of Berlin, as far as publications are concerned which appear in their respective territory.

To the news which are forbidden to be published:- belong no matter if they relate to Germany or any other state:-

1. Concentration of troops as protection on the frontier, coast guard and island protection, guarding of entrances to harbors and mouths of rivers.
2. Measures for the protection of railroads and the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal and the troops detailed for this duty.
3. Statements as to the course of mobilization, calling in of reserves and II Levy ( Landwehr), clearing of ships and equipping of the same.
4. Organization of new formations and their designations.
5. Arrival of commands at the frontier to prepare the quartering of troops.
6. Building of platforms etc. on railroad depots on the frontier by railroad troops and civil workmen.
7. Erection of magazines at the frontier and buying up of stores by the military or naval administration.
8. Transportation of troops and military officials, of guns, ammunition, mines and torpedoes from the garrisons and the direction of their travel by railroad.
9. The passing through of troops of other garrisons and the direction of their march.
10. Arrival of details of troops from the interior or from the frontier and their disembarkation and quarters.

11. Strength and designation of troops concentrated on the frontier.
12. Statement of the frontier territory where there are no troops or from which troops have been taken away.
13. Names of the higher leaders and their employment and any changes in the higher commands.
14. Statements as to departure and arrival of the higher commanders and the "Great Headquarters" (Kaiser). .
15. Interruptions of railroad traffic by accidents and the uselessness of the same and bridges.
16. Work on fortresses, coast and field fortifications.
17. The getting ready of wagon trains and workmen for military and naval purposes.
18. Statements of ships placed in and out of commission.
19. Movement and stays of naval vessels.
20. Laying of mines and equipping ships with mines.
21. Change of sea signs and extinguishing of signal-fires.
22. Damages to ships and their repairs.
23. Appointment of naval intelligence places.
24. Getting ready, equipment and confiscation of ships of the merchant fleet for naval purposes; change in the orders.
25. Getting ready of docks.
26. Publication of letters of members of the Army and Navy without permission of the military authorities remaining at home.

offense

The deliberate against this prohibition will be punished with prison up to three years ( or fortress) or with a fine up to Marks 5000.

Berlin, July 31, 1914.

(Sig) The Imperial  
Chancellor . "

*Germany*

SUBJECT EUROPEAN WAR 1914. -  
General Mobilization - Germany.

From Z No. ~~XXX~~  
191 Date August 3, 1914., 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

The General Mobilization Order came out on Saturday the 1st of August about 5 a'clock. It was spread broadcast by extra newspaper sheets (copy attached) and by posting on all public buildings and advertising spaces. Each person concerned received through the regular channels his card giving him his orders in accordance with the scheme outlined in my report Z-50 of March 7, 1914.

As a matter of fact there had been for the Navy some advance preparation. From the moment of the sudden return of the German fleet from its Norwegian cruise on July 27th, the ships had begun to strip. Reserve ships of all classes were filled with coal and stores not already on board. The ships attached to various shore stations and schools were assembled in their war stations with their squadrons, the coast fortifications were completely mobilized and the mine defenses were laid. Helgoland was cleared of non-military people. I had definite news that the Wilhelmshaven torpedo flotillas were outside on night patrol on July 30th and 31st and probably they had begun some nights before.

At the Navy Department I was told that everything had worked without a hitch and they had nothing to do but to wait for the war declaration when their plans would go into execution. It was quite peaceful about the Navy Department building but their organization throws all work on the great Naval Stations of Kiel and Wilhelmshaven and the lesser one at Danzig.

In the case of the Army and the country at large an amazing organization is revealed. The mobilization order puts six million men in the field under arms and affects the daily occupation of some twelve millions, yet at the War Department all was serene, the Minister of War was accessible to the American Military Attaché to whom he stated that their work was over at the moment of mobilizing and the "greater" General Staff was now responsible that their plans of mobilization and campaign became effective.

Throughout Berlin day and night the movement of troops goes on without confusion or delay. The troops move in small bodies, rarely more than 300 men, generally singing, or whistling a patriotic air to keep step. Officers and men with whom I have talked appear grave, but resolved. They are convinced of the righteousness of their cause and that the war was forced upon them. There is great bitterness against the Russians in particular and the lives of Russians are not safe about the streets of Berlin.

The great empty sidings which take up so much room in Berlin now show their reasons. They are for mobilization and when the mobilization occurred, the trains were there, the detachments of men under their non-commissioned officers arrived on time. The officers appeared, all without hurry, confusion, waste of time and apparently the whole enormous rearranging of a country has been done without the necessity of a subordinate asking a question of a superior, because each officer, each official, and each man knew exactly what he must do.

The enormous number of men put into the field by the order of mobilization is due to the fact that not only are the reserve proper called out, but also the "Landwehr" or 2d line, and the "Landsturm" of the Army Corps on the borders of France and Russia ( See mobilization order).

As soon as the mobilization order was issued, the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal was taken over by the Chief of the Baltic Naval Station and closed to all merchant traffic. The order states it is to remain closed until further orders.

With the mobilization have appeared in the newspapers and posted all over every town in Germany, a number of orders relating to the war footing.

Some of these were:-

Military Train Schedule for the days of the mobilization.

Forbidding the exportation of provisions, animals, medicines, etc.

Postage regulations to and from the armies into the field and for the Navy.

Fixing the price of flour and salt in Berlin where the prices were being run up. Stores failing to obey were immediately closed by the police.

Forbidding all flying except by military flyers.

Calling on civil flyers to join the Army or Navy in their capacity as airmen.

One notice is particularly worthy of mention. It relates to Russian spies and says that the land is full of them and it is the duty of all to render them harmless. The method of doing this is to be inferred but apparently they can be shot on sight.

Letters must now be in German, and forwarded unsealed. The telephone can only be used in the German language. If a telephone is used twice in a foreign language, it will be taken out of the house.

Railroad cars must have their windows shut and toilets locked and travellers are not allowed on the platform in transit. This followed an attempt to damage a bridge by throwing a bomb from a train.

These various orders with many others are to be found in the files of the "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" ( North German General Gazette). I will forward a complete file covering the war.

Practically all private automobiles have been taken by the Army. All the big auto trucks used to transport heavy weights and which in time of peace are under Army subsidy. A large number of the Berlin auto omnibuses were being shipped to the front last night and all gasoline supplies have been taken over by the Government.

August 6.

Yesterday was the fourth day of mobilization which goes forward with clockwork precision. Civilian clad reservists were marched to the barracks and uniformed and armed men were coming out.

August 8.

This is the last day of mobilization for the Army. The Navy mobilization is long since completed, as the number 80,000 is comparatively small and are nearly all close to their places of mobilization and service. They were mobilized in about 60 hours. The Navy has all the men they can possibly use to man everything active and reserve and plenty to fill casualties. They now refuse to take any more volunteers for the present. The past two days drafts of men passing through Berlin are older and contain large number of men who had settled down in life. It is evident that war did not appeal to them.

The completion of the days of mobilization does not in any way restore the railroads to public travel except in a limited way.

The bodies of mobilized troops will continue to be forwarded to the front for several days yet.

Troops passing through Berlin are fed by associations at the various stations. Yesterday the Empress, the Crown Princess and other ladies of the Court aided in the work at one of the stations.

Everything is now being done to stop people from shooting at automobiles on the road and at aeroplanes. Serious delays in transmitting orders occurred, for everybody was on the hunt for spies and automobiles with Russian gold to such an extent that innocent people were killed and even general staff officers held up in the small villages and held for identification.

All items in the newspapers must pass the military censor and no political views can be expressed by newspapers.

#### Railroads during Mobilization and After.

The railroads from the moment that mobilization was ordered passed under military control and operation. The following rules went into immediate effect and continue:-

1. All trains, whether passenger or freight, run at the same speed, 35 kilometres per hour.
2. All trains stop at all stations.
3. Civilians must make room for soldiers and officials by leaving the train at any station where room is needed for soldiers. The civilian must then

wait until such time as there is room for him on a train.

4. The block system is given up and trains run as close together as is considered safe. Owing to the low speed and to the fact that all trains are operated at the same speed, accidents are avoided.



T r a n s l a t i o n o f M O B I L I Z A T I O N O R D E R .

1. His Majesty the Emperor and King have ordered the Mobilization.

The 2d of August will be the first day of mobilization.

"	3d	"	"	second	"	"
"	4th	"	"	third	"	"
"	5th	"	"	fourth	"	"
"	6th	"	"	fifth	"	"

etc.

All officers, medical officers, military officials, non-commissioned officers and men of the different classes of reserves, including the supernumary reserve (Ersatz Reserve) will ~~arrive~~ bring in order their home duties and to carry out their war orders without waiting for any further orders.

2. Those not within the limits of "control assemblies", and those coming from other district commands will report with their military papers to the competent district command

in person at the rendez-vous place  
at Schöneberg, Kolonnenstrasse 33.

inwriting:- for instance " To the "Anmeldestelle  
of the District Command I Berlin."

They are entitled to free passage without being required to procure a ticket, simply by showing their military papers, or even upon a verbal statement to the conductor of the train. Volunteers for the war will have to show a certificate from the police regarding their purpose and aim.

The payment of the fees due them will be paid afterwards when joining their troops.

Berlin, August 1, 1914.

Royal District Commands I, II, III,  
IV, V and VI Berlin.

The Calling in of the "Landsturm" ( Last Levy)

Order concerning the Calling in  
of the "Landsturm" ( Last Levy).

August 1, 1914.

I, William, by the Grace of God German Emperor,  
King of Prussia, etc.

order in accordance with article II, § 25 of the Law concerning changes in the Military Liability Act of February 11, 1888, in the name of the Empire, the following:-

In the Dis tricts of the 1st, 3d, 5th 6th 8th 9th 10th , 14th, 15th 16th 17th, 18th 20th and 21st Army Corps the "Landsturm" ( last Levy) will be called in by the competent commanding generals ~~by~~ in special orders.

This order dates from the date of its publication.

Given under my own hand and seal  
Berlin, Castle, Aug.1, 1914.

WILHELM I .R.  
v. Bethmann-Hollweg.

The calling in of the "Landsturm" does not for the present extent to all Army Corps Districts; thus the District of the 3d Army Corps ( Berlin and the province of Brandenburg); also the District of the 4th Army Corps ( Province Saxony), are excepted. On the other hand the order includes the Districts Eastern Prussia ( 1st and 30th Army Corps), Western Prussia (17th Army Corps), Pomerania (3d Army Corps), Posen Niederlausitz and Lower Silesia (5th Army Corps), Middle and Upper Silesia, 6th Army Corps, Mecklenburg, Schleswig-Holstein, and the Hanas Cities (9th Army Corps), Hannover, Oldenburg and Brunswick (10th Army Corps, Rhine Province 8th Army Corps, Grand Duchy Hessen-Nassau and portions of the Rhine Province and Westfalen (18th Army Corps), Grand Duchy Baden and Upper Alsace (14th), Lower Alsace (15th Army Corps), Lothringen (16th) and the 31st Army Corps lying in parts of the Rhine Province, Lothringen and the Alsace.

An order regarding the requisition for horses for the mobilization of troops is published on the public advertising spaces. The Requisition begins on the 3d day of mobilization, Monday. All proprietors of horses are to pay attention.

Billeting in Berlin.

The Berlin city authorities publish the following:-

The published mobilization will bring upon t Berlin the quartering of troops. We therefore ask the support of all citizens for the procuring of quarters. Tax centers and tax collectors, as well as the City's Military Bureau, Klosterstrasse 68, Entrance Waisenstrasse 37) will register names etc. In the record will mentioned name, profession, and residence of the applicant, as well as the rooms available and the number of officers or men for which quarters are offered.

Office of Naval Intelligence,

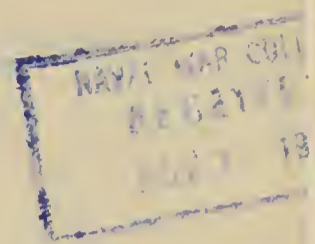
Copy

November 4, 1914.

N. H. L.

-----  
From Kokumin, August 8, 1914.  
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"AMERICAN FLEET COMING".



"ATLANTIC FLEET TO SPREAD SLAUGHTER OVER THE PACIFIC."

-----)In consequence of the influences of the European Conflagration extending to the Pacific and affecting certain ambitions designs in those waters, the American Atlantic Fleet will soon pass through the Panama Canal bound for Asia.)-----

The American Main Fleet till recently has been at anchor in the vicinity of Tampico, Mexico, but may at present be passing through the Panama Canal or already be in the waters of the Pacific. \* \* \* \*

[If Germany should be defeated] "it is evident that German Colonies in the South Pacific may at once be taken possession of by another nation, and that in the general disturbed condition, other colonies in the Pacific might also be effected. To hold their position in the Philippines and protect the interests of their own country, the United States has determined to send its whole Navy (to the Pacific) and by strength of arms dominate the different nations in the Pacific, extending that national policy evinced in recent years towards the Chinese Government, carrying out that greedy ambition with that same force of arms, while the powers of Europe are suffering from the effects of Chaos at home."

"Yuan Shi Kai has among his preventive measures against a disturbance in the Far East made certain agreements privately with America, relying on the hostile feeling said to exist in Japan against America, and these more than anything else have been the cause of the above action.

"America, customarily, makes a pretence of peace, on the surface preaching with the mouth a doctrine of humanity, at the same time has weapons concealed in the hands, now comes glaring with fierce eyes for a chance to make carnage in the Pacific, to drive out and slaughter

Japan at one blow and declare herself the dominant Power in the Pacific.

"We the children of a divine country must not for an instant let this escape our eyes. \*\*\*\*\*

-----  
From Jiji, August, 7, 1914.

Regarding the Attitude of America.

President Wilson has expressed to the Powers the desire of America to mediate.\*\*\* Japan is about to act in conformity with the obligations laid on her by the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, and to what extent she will be compelled to move in the matter will depend on circumstances. It is therefore better to know directly or indirectly, at once, whether now or in the future, an absolute disinterested attitude will be assumed. As a First Class Power this fact must be clear. So on this occasion, the attitude of America must all the more in general be closely watched, and at the same time, if a certain conclusion be come to, action should be taken. No one can tell, really, what position America may take. \*\*\*

58  
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"Law preventing indiscretions of the Press  
in time of war."

"Paris, August 5, 1914.

(Preamble)

"Article 1. - It is prohibited to publish, by any of the means specified in Art. 23 of the Law on the Press dated July 29, 1881, any news of information other than that that is communicated by the Government or the Headquarters on the following matters : -

- "Operation of the mobilization and transportation of troops and materiel.
- "Strength, composition of corps, units and detachments.
- "Lists of troops composing an army, a corps, etc.
- "Numbers of men having remained or returned to their homes.
- "Numbers of wounded, killed or prisoners.
- "Works of defense.
- "Condition of armament, materiel and supplies.
- "Sanitary conditions.
- "Appointments or changes of the higher commands.
- "Orders, situation and movements of the Armies, detachments and the Fleet.
- "And in general all information or articles concerning military or diplomatic matters liable to aid the enemy, or to create a harmful impression on the Army or the population.

"Art. 2. - Any violation of the provisions of the preceding articles will be punished by one to five years imprisonment and a fine of from 1000 to 5000 francs.

"Art. 3. - The introduction into France, the circulation, sale or distribution of newspapers, pamphlets, writings or drawings of any nature published in foreign countries may be prohibited by a single order of the Minister of the Interior. Any violation of the provision will be punished by an imprisonment of from three months to one year and a fine of from 100 to 1000 francs.

"Art. 4. - Article 463 of the penal Code may be applied to the facts considered in the present law.

"Art. 5. - This law will cease to be effective at a date to be fixed by a decree of the President of the Republic, and at the latest at the conclusion of peace.

(Signatures, etc.)

8. The French military system makes no provision for the organization of a War censorship during time of peace in preparation for war. The loose organization at the Bourse, which

is dependent on the Cabinet Noir of the Foreign Office is not taken into account by the military authorities. It has never been deemed feasible politically to prepare censorship for war purposes; probably because the pacific party has always been so preponderant that knowledge of the existence of such preparation, which would be bound to appear in the expenditures of the War Department, would lead to agitation against militarism.

9. As a matter of fact, the military censorship went into effect some days before the call for mobilization was sent out. Newspapers, while not positively censored in detail until the morning after the declaration of war, were nevertheless threatened with punishment if they were indiscreet. The Editor of the "Paris-Midi," whose paper announced some two or three days in advance that "mobilization" was to be ordered in France, was, it is understood, arrested and confined until after the mobilization was well under way. Telegrams addressed to newspapers outside France were rigorously censored and delayed for at least four days before the mobilization call. At the same time there is reason to believe that mail matter was also held up some time before being transmitted. The Parliamentary Act of August 5th merely regularized and modernized an institution which had already been put in operation under rather "flimsy" and obsolete laws still on the Statute Books.

10. The following are extracts from the decrees issued by the President of France on July 31, 1914, under authority of the old laws, viz : -

"Paris, July 31, 1914.

"The President of the French Republic,

"Upon proposal of the Minister of Commerce,  
"Industry, Post and Telegraph, and the Ministers of  
"War, Marine, the Interior, Foreign Affairs and the  
"Colonies :

"Considering Arts. 4 of the Law of November 29,  
"1850, which reads :

"Private telegraphic correspondence can be  
 "suspended by the Government, either on one or  
 "several lines separately, or on all the lines  
 "at the same time."

"Considering the law of December 9, 1875, bear-  
 "ing the approval of the International Convention  
 "concluded at St. Petersburg, July 10 and 22, 1875,  
 "and in particular Art. 8 of said Convention, which  
 "reads :

"Each Government reserves itself the right to  
 "suspend the international telegraphic service  
 "for an undetermined length of time, if deemed  
 "necessary, either in a general manner or only  
 "on certain lines and for certain classes of  
 "correspondence, under the obligation, however,  
 "of immediately advising the contracting Govern-  
 "ments."

"Considering the laws of March 19, 1892, and  
 "the subsequent laws confirming the Conventions or  
 "declarations concerning international telephonic  
 "communication, one of the articles of which Conven-  
 "tion or Declaration, which reads :

"Each of the two contracting parties shall have  
 "the right, totally or partially, to suspend  
 "the telephonic service for any reason of a  
 "public nature, without being liable to payment  
 "of any indemnity.

"Considering the Postal Convention of March 20,  
 "1888, and the annexed Convention of November  
 "25, 1891, concluded between the President of  
 "the French Republic and H.R.H. the Bey of Tunis.

"Considering Arts. 27 of the law of July 24, 1873,  
 "Arts. 20 and 21 of the law of March 13, 1875.

"Considering the decrees of January 5 and March  
 "14, 1889.

"The Council of Ministers having been consulted,  
 "the president of the Republic decrees : -

"Art. 1. - Beginning August 1, 1914, and  
 "until it is otherwise ordered by the Minister of  
 "Commerce, Industry, Post and Telegraph, acting in  
 "concert with the Ministers of War, Marine, the  
 "Interior, Foreign Affairs and of the Colonies, the  
 "use of conventional language, cipher codes and  
 "foreign languages is prohibited for the wording of  
 "private telegrams in the zone of the interior.

"The service of telephonic communications is  
 "suspended on all interurbane lines, excepting commu-  
 "nication regarding the operation of navigable lines  
 "(River and Canal boats). All telephone lines will  
 "remain at the disposal of the authorities having  
 "telegraphic franchise.

"Art. 2. - Beginning with August 1, 1914, tele-  
 "graphic service with Germany by all lines connected  
 "with the German system will be suspended.

"The faculty given to Governments of friendly  
 "or neutral countries to communicate in cipher or  
 "conventional language with their respective repre-  
 "sentatives accredited to the French Government or  
 "reciprocally may be suspended by order of the  
 "Minister of Foreign Affairs in concert with the  
 "Minister of Commerce, Industry, Post and Telegraph.

"Private telegrams exchanged between friendly  
 "or neutral countries shall be worded in clear lan-  
 "guage. The Minister of Commerce, Industry, Post  
 "and Telegraph will determine the languages admitted  
 "for this sort of correspondence, after agreement  
 "with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

"Outgoing international telegrams shall be sub-  
 "mitted, before being presented at the telegraph  
 "office, for the visé of the Commissary of Police  
 "at the place of origin, or in case there should be  
 "no Commissariat of Police, for the visé of the Mayor  
 "of the place of origin.

"Incoming international telegrams shall, before  
 "being delivered, be submitted for the visé mentioned  
 "above.

"Art. 3. - The visé mentioned in Art. 2 of the  
 "present decree is obligatory for all telegrams,  
 "either received or sent in the following Departments:

(Here follows a list of the names  
 of 51 French Departments.)

"By order of the Minister of War or of Marine,  
 "and of the Minister of Commerce, Industry, Post and  
 "Telegraph, this local control can be extended to any  
 "other Department. It is obligatory in all the Depart-  
 "ments of the metropolis for telegrams originating  
 "from or destined for Algeria.

"Art. 4. - Priority in transmission is allowed  
 "for Government telegrams, official telegrams of the  
 "military and naval authorities, official telegrams  
 "of the colonial authorities, if addressed to the  
 "governors, provided they relate to the political or  
 "military situation, and for official telegrams con-  
 "cerning public security.

"Art. 5. The public will be informed by means  
 "of notices posted at the entrances of the telegraph  
 "and telephone stations of such of these orders that  
 "concern it.

"Art. 6. The Minister of Commerce, Industry,  
 "Post and Telegraph, of War, Marine, the Interior,  
 "Foreign Affairs and of the Colonies, are directed,  
 "each in so much as he is concerned, with the execution  
 "of the present decree.

(Signatures)



"Paris, July 31, 1914.

"The President of the French Republic,

"Considering the decree on telegraphic and tele-  
"phonic operations in time of war;

"Upon proposal by the Minister of Public Works,  
"of Post and Telegraph, and the Ministers of War,  
"Marine, Foreign Affairs and of the Colonies,

"Decrees :

"Article 1. - A superior Committee for control  
"of communications is appointed in Paris.

"Art. 2. This Superior Committee is formed as  
"follows :

- "Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Post and Telegraph:  
"The Managing Director of the telegraph Department, President.  
"The Managing Director of the Postal Department, Member.  
"The Chief of the Bureau of International Tele-  
graphic Correspondence, Member.
- "Ministry of War :  
"The Chief of the Information section, 2nd Bureau  
of the general Staff, Member.
- "Ministry of Marine:  
"The Chief of the 1st section of the General Staff  
of the Navy, Member.
- "Ministry of Public Works:  
"The Managing Director of the Railroad Department,  
Member.
- "Ministry of the Interior:  
"The Chief of Bureau of the Department of General  
Security (Secret Service) charged with the  
supervision of aliens, Member.
- "Ministry of Foreign Affairs:  
A functionary of superior rank, Member.
- "Ministry of Colonies:  
"The Chief of the Cipher Bureau, Member.  
"The Chief of the Bureau of International Tele-  
graphic communication at the Central  
Administration of the Post and Telegraph  
Department, in charge of the telegraph lines  
connecting France with foreign countries,  
will act as - Secretary.  
An Assistant in the same service will act  
as Assistant secretary.

Art. 3. The Minister of Public Works, of Post  
"and Telegraph, and the Ministers of War, Marine, the  
"Interior, of Foreign Affairs and of the Colonies,  
"are charged, each in so much as he is concerned, with  
"the execution of the present decree.

(Signatures.)

"Paris, August 6, 1914.

"Correction to the decree of July 31, 1914,  
"concerning telegraphic and telephonic communication,  
"par. 2 : -

"The service of telephonic communication is  
"suspended on all lines connecting the different  
"cities, excepting communications regarding the  
"railroad service, navigable lines and such civil  
"establishments as the proper working of which offers  
"a greater interest from the point of view of national  
"defense.

"The authorization will be granted by the Minis-  
"ters of War and Marine after consultation with the  
"Minister of Commerce, Industry, Post and Telegraph.

(Signatures.)

11. Operation of Censorship in Paris. - The fundamental objection to the censorship in France is political, in that it stifles party politics. It is very difficult for the Censor to determine where the dividing line is between a matter of solely internal political import and a matter "liable to aid the enemy or to create a harmful impression on the Army or population," (see the law previously given). Now, while all the newspapers of varying political colorings admit the necessity of censorship on military matters, they are nevertheless very critical of alleged favoritism in the determination by the Censor of the matter he strikes out on the grounds of its creating "a harmful impression on the Army or population."

12. The representative of one of the best known New York newspapers summed up his criticism of the French Censorship in about the following words, which are interesting as showing the newspaper man's point of view :

"The Journalist's objection to the Administration  
"of the censorship is that it is slow, mechanical,  
"incompetent, in that it knows nothing about the  
"science of the make up of newspapers, and inconsistent  
"in policy, so that it is impossible to save time by  
"anticipating what the censor will pass and what he  
"will cut out.

"The Army's objection to the censorship is that  
"it gives out too much news and that too much freedom  
"is allowed the Socialist and extreme Radical Press  
"in "peace talk."

"The Pacifist objects to the Censor because he  
 "has encouraged hatred of the Germans and has uniform-  
 "ly suppressed articles intended to soften the personal  
 "hard feelings of individual French people against  
 "individual Germans. They also object to the playing  
 "up of atrocities by the censor, because the censor  
 "made speeches to the Journalists, telling them when  
 "they might play up atrocities and when they might  
 "not, his policy being directed by conditions in the  
 "north-east of France concerned with the annoyance  
 "caused to the armies of refugees fleeing before the  
 "Germans, these refugees having been scared by Belgian  
 "atrocities stories played up in the newspapers.

"One cannot say that the censorship is at all truth-  
 "ful, because no one in the censorship knows anything  
 "about the source of news; all of the military news  
 "comes from the front, and all of the foreign news  
 "from the Foreign Office. As I understand it, the  
 "Censorship does have the responsibility for the truth  
 "of news, and personally I have found the Censor very  
 "ill-informed about news events. Every now and then  
 "there is a whole censorship upset by a message from  
 "the General Military Headquarters at the front, com-  
 "plaining that it had not prevented certain excesses  
 "in the Press, such for example as the publication of  
 "photographs and drawings of new military inventions  
 "being tried out. When one of these orders comes, the  
 "Censorship trembles for its existence and becomes  
 "uniformly severe all round for all kinds of news.

"So far as I can find out, there is no question  
 "of the present Censorship being corruptible in the  
 "sense of being amenable to political influence, all  
 "party papers being treated alike. If the censor  
 "notices anything suspicious in regard to the despat-  
 "ches of a correspondent, he is apt to become very  
 "severe permanently with that correspondent. I am  
 "informed that an American correspondent early in the  
 "war received a cable signed by his Managing Editor  
 "in New York, directing him to "square the Censor" and  
 "to make arrangements so that his news matter should  
 "be passed before that of his competitors. All cable-  
 "grams coming into France are censored by an organi-  
 "zation which is in touch with the organization which  
 "censors outgoing cablegrams, so that the correspondent  
 "received his order to corrupt the censor with the  
 "blue pencil marks under the words themselves. Since  
 "then he has had great difficulty in getting anything  
 "through, and further, he has had his mail opened -  
 "a special police measure, which has been very little  
 "resorted to."

13. Censorship Discipline. - Aside from the penalties laid  
 down in the law of August 5, 1914, for violation of its previ-  
 sions, other penalties, based on the more or less obsolete laws  
 previously referred to are also carried out or threatened.  
 Almost anyone may be arrested and confined as a military measure.

Foreign correspondents can and have been forced to leave the country. The publication of a newspaper may be suspended or stopped. All of these penalties are salutary in their effect.

14. So far, the censor has suspended very few newspapers, but such a step has frequently been threatened. The "Daily Mail" was suspended for one day because of an error made by the English speaking office boy in understanding the French of the Censor who wanted certain words cut out of an article. The office boy did not get the wording straight, and the paper was suspended for a day, despite the fact that the same article had appeared in English in all the London papers three days before, and had been on sale on the boulevards for two days.

15. The French Censorship makes it clear that it does not accept the authority of the English Censorship, and I am informed that it is not a good argument to say that the English Censorship has already passed it.

16. "Le Matin," one of the leading Paris newspapers, was threatened, in the early days of the censorship, with suspension for one day, and was officially ordered to suspend, but refused to do so and went on printing, the Editor inviting the censor to bring out the Police and stop the presses. The censor did not do so and the paper appeared. This led to a great deal of bitterness on the part of two or three small French papers which had been suspended for periods of from one to eight days. It is very doubtful if "Le Matin" would take this same position today as the "bluff would unquestionably be called."

17. The censor does not recognize the expedient of simply changing the name of a newspaper. Each French newspaper owes two or three names, the name of a newspaper in France being a concrete piece of property, so long as issues bearing this name are printed and filed at the National Library every so often. Mr. Clémenceau brought out his "L'Homme Enchaîné" when "L'Homme Libre" was suspended, but the new newspaper was seized, and it

was only after he had gone through the regular legal steps of establishing the new newspaper that he was allowed to continue his articles against the censorship.

18. The so-called inspired governmental papers, like "Le Temps" and "Le Journal des Débats" are supposed to stand in with the censor to the extent of finding out when their editorial will be censored a day or two in advance. The Temps' leading editorial has been censored only once or twice, but the body of the newspaper has been rather/severely censored.

19. The Socialistic and Anarchistic papers have been granted a great deal of liberty under the censorship.

20. Certain comic papers are severely censored when they attempt to make irreverent jokes.

21. The power and authority of the Censor has been so definitely and forcefully impressed on the minds of publishers and other individuals that today they would not dare to take any liberties. For their own protection they carefully retain the proof sheets stamped and marked by the censor, so that if any question arises as to the propriety of their printed matter, the responsibility is that of the Censor.

22. On the other hand, the Censor carefully scrutinizes the publications as they appear, and in the event of question, he calls on the publisher for his stamped proof.

23. Press telegrams are similarly stamped by the censor before they are transmitted. Private telegrams are censored and stamped at local Police Stations before transmittal, and at the same time the sender must identify himself. The forwarding of a Press telegram under the guise of a "private" telegram, if attempted, would be easily detected.

24. Organization and Control of the Central Censor's Office in Paris. - The French Army Regulations make provision for the creation and operation of Press censorship. The censor-

ship is made part of the functions of the Second Bureau of the General Staff. All military information collected at the front finally reaches the 2nd Bureau of the General Staff at General Joffre's Headquarters. Here so much of it as it is deemed advisable to make public is transmitted to the 2nd Bureau of the General Staff at the War Department, where it forms the basis for writing the Official Communiqué, and also serves as a guide to the character of military information that may be passed by the censor with reference to movements in the zone of the Armies.

25. The 2nd Bureau of the General Staff of the War Department is charged, in addition to its other functions, with the control of the central Censor's Office. In the censor's Branch of this Bureau, not only must military information from the front be censored, but also military and political information of the zone of the Interior.

26. On account of the political feature, it was first deemed more advisable to place at the head of the Censor's Branch a man experienced in political affairs rather than a military officer without this experience. How this turned out practically can be described as follows :

27. The original Censorship as organized under the law of August 5th was put in the charge of Mr. Klotz, an ex-Minister of Finance, of liberal political tendencies, and who had never had party connection with the general question of militarism as versus socialism. Mr. Klotz was only nominally under the 2nd Bureau of the General Staff of the War Department. It is understood that the selection of the staff of Censors was largely left to Mr. Klotz. A campaign against the censorship was started almost at once by ex-Premier Clemenceau. He accused Mr. Klotz of having given the censorship over totally to the Jews. At the end of three or four weeks the Ministry appointed a Radical Deputy to assist Mr. Klotz in the administration of the censor-

ship, in order to make the extremely Radical newspapers feel better about the treatment accorded their columns.

28. For the first few weeks of the war the whole business of censorship was mixed up with the writing of the Official Communiqué, which was in the hands of a well known officer, Major de Tomasson, of the 2nd Bureau of the general Staff of the War Department. When difficulties arose as to the passing of certain news not contained in the Communiqué, editors found that it was Major de Tomasson who gave the final decision. At the issuing of the Communiqués, Major de Tomasson made speeches directing the Journalists as to what they might do and what they might not do, and in general gave many indications to Editors to follow, not only as to strictly military news, but as to questions of general policy. At the end of the first six weeks of war the political control of Mr. Klotz over the Censorship had ceased, and Major de Tomasson had practically become the censor. Many changes were made in the personnel of the staff of censors, probably to suit the ideas of Major de Tomasson. All of the staff chosen for the routine work of examining the proofs of newspapers and reading the telegrams sent to French country newspapers and to foreign newspapers were mobilized men. It is not known what the basis of choice was, but, so far as can be gathered, it was evidently personal, Mr. Klotz having chosen men whom he knew and whom he thought competent, according to his conception of the administration of the censorship, and Major de Tomasson having changed all of these selections into men in whom he personally had confidence. The criticism that there was practically no Journalists on the staff of censors was brought forward, and as a concession to various articles condemning the technical competence of the Censorship, Major de Tomasson had some mobilized Journalists put on his staff.

29. Shortly after Mr. Clémenceau began his campaign against the existence of a "political" censorship, the Ministry permitted a sort of investigation being held of the workings of the Censorship. At the end of the investigation the Ministry, it is understood, offered the control of the Censorship to a Commission to be composed of Deputies of all political colors. Many attempts were made to get such a Commission together, but none of them succeeded. As a result, the Military Authorities remained in control of the censorship politically as well as in a military and diplomatic way, and the campaign against the Censorship failed. During the course of the investigation the Ministry gave out the names of twelve heads of departments within the Censorship, half of them being assigned to local newspapers and the other half to despatches and periodicals. It is not known exactly how many men are required for the administration of the central censorship at Paris, but there must be eighty or one hundred.

30. The actual day's work in the central Censorship in Paris is about as follows : - At about 9 a.m. the first proofs from the noon editions of the evening papers begin to be brought in by cyclists. It appears that all of the proofs are glanced over by a sort of "copy taster," who distributes the various columns to the different heads of departments according to their matter. Certain proofs are gone through very rapidly, such as advertisements, obituary notices and news of only routine pacific interest. On some days these parts of the papers appear not to have been censored at all, because military news censored in other papers leaks out in these columns. The noon papers are ordinarily able to go to press on time, because two-thirds of their matter has already been passed by the same Censor for publication in the morning newspapers. The fact that the matter has once been passed, however, does not carry with it the



assumption that it will be passed again, and it frequently happens that news published in the morning papers is cut out of the noon and evening papers, and that further reference to it is forbidden. The afternoon papers begin to send their proofs to the censor shortly after noon and usually get out their final editions before 5 p.m. The hardest work of the Censor comes at night between 9 o'clock in the evening and 3 o'clock in the morning, when the staff is much larger than it is in the day time.

31. The service between the newspaper and the Censor is maintained by cyclists until about 1 a.m., after which hour everything is done by telephone so far as the censor's reply to the proofs is concerned.

32. In addition to the proofs, column by column, the Censor requires proofs of the pages as a whole - a means taken to avoid various "make up" devices resorted to by newspapers to heighten the impression produced by certain pieces of news: the giving of a very important and very large space, for example, to an item of trivial word length, being a sufficient indication to the reader that greater importance should be attached to that item than the Censor is willing to permit. The same thing applies to the size of the heading, which is severely censored.

33. The censoring in pages is more severe than the censorship in columns, and in the course of a day the censor often discovers many items which he wishes to have thrown out, which have not occurred to him as dangerous before. In this case, there is not sufficient time to re-arrange columns, and the paper will go for sale with varying sizes of space in columns perfectly blank.

34. The censor's Office is supposed theoretically to be open twenty-four hours a day, but as a matter of fact after 3 a.m. it is next to impossible for a Paris newspaper to get its proofs stamped by the Censor.

35. Censorship of Provincial Newspapers. - The control exercised over country newspapers through the despatches sent out by the large news agencies of Paris appears to follow very closely the day's policy for the Paris press. In country towns large enough to have daily newspapers there is always some sort of a Censor dependent on either the local Military Regional Commander or on the Civil Authorities : the Prefect, the Mayor, etc. This local Censor takes the drift of his policy from the tone of the news received from Paris which has been censored, and censors in addition only such matter as he thinks someone might object to.

36. The service as between Paris and the Provinces has not been particularly well co-ordinated, and there have been some criticisms on this account. All are learning by experience, and in this particular to-day the service is being steadily improved.

37. A few months ago it was found necessary to confiscate an entire edition of the "La Dépêche" of Toulouse, because the local censor had permitted it to publish a full page interview with General Joffre and in which General Joffre criticized severely some of the generals commanding the Armies at the beginning of the War. As far as known, this is the only interview which general Joffre has given since the commencement of hostilities.

38. There is a good deal of heart-burning amongst the correspondents by reason of their not being allowed to send in military news of Press value which they have obtained, irrespective of its effect on public opinion. On the otherhand, the law in this particular is clear and "it is difficult to send anything in the way of military news outside of the regular Communiqué."

39. Mail matter sent to foreign papers by their Paris representatives is also submitted for censorship and is not mailed until approved and stamped by the censor. As a rule, this kind of matter is not subjected to the same severity in censorship as is cabled matter, on account of the time that will elapse before publication. On the other hand, it is well understood that discretion must be exercised in the kind of statements made. The local representative is very careful that his comments are not of such a character as to "get him in bad" with the French authorities. I know that the principal American newspapers are subscribed for by the French War Office, and that their news comments are more or less followed by a designated Officer in the 2nd Bureau.

40. As a rule, the French Authorities appear to have more confidence in the permanent representative of a foreign newspaper stationed in France than they have for the "floating" war correspondent. The reasons for this are perfectly apparent. The one man they can always "handle" and "reach," whereas the other fellow is "here to-day and gone tomorrow."

41. Censorship of Naval News. - The censorship over naval and marine news is also exercised by the Military Censor. It is very severe, and almost everything about shipping and naval movements is cut out on the general principle that the Ministry of Marine objects to any publicity whatsoever being given these matters.

42. Censorship of Photographs. - Censors are not very severe in passing on photographs taken at the front so long as they are of such a nature as not to give information to the enemy. There are two daily papers in Paris alone given up wholly to the reproduction of photographs taken in most cases at the front. Most of the other daily papers and periodicals contain photographs. Objection is made, however, to the

publication of photographs showing batteries in position alongside of easily recognizable landmarks, such as factories with their names and signs, and to photographs of new materiel showing details of construction, etc. Anything objectionable is, of course, eliminated in the regular process of censorship.

43. The publication of photographs taken at the front goes a long way to keeping up the interest of the French people in the war. I was rather surprised to hear that soldiers along the French lines each has a camera. No objections have <sup>been</sup> made to foreign military observers using a camera, though naturally they were expected to show common sense in its use.

44. Censorship of Magazines and Books. - There is a censorship for books as well as for magazines. The magazine censorship is conducted by the regular newspaper censors late at night or on off days. The book censorship does not amount to much, because there are so few books being published, but in one case, at least to my knowledge, a book called "The Little Bourgeois during the War of 1914" has been suppressed and the author warned not to publish any more of his writings during the present War.

45. Censorship of Plays and Cinematograph. - The censorship of plays appears to have been put into the hands of the Police, or at least the Military Authorities appear to accept the verdict of the Police on Plays and Cinematographic productions. Certain general rules have been laid down by the military authorities which are carried out by the Police.

46. Censorship of Foreign Publications. - So far as I know there is very little regulation now in force concerning the bringing of foreign newspapers into France, although at first there was a rule against bringing them in. Swiss and Italian papers as well as English and American are received regularly, and can be purchased at any news-stand. Only the very prominent newspapers receive copies of the German newspapers.

47. Censorship of Mail Matter. - All mail matter can be opened and censored by the Postal Officials. Sometimes this is done, more particularly at certain places near the front, or in the case of mail intended for individuals under suspicion. I do not believe that the mail moving in the interior of France is censored to any great extent. You never see any mail marked "Opened by the Censor" as in the case in England. If the mail is opened here in France, the envelope is probably steamed and the fact of its having been opened is not noted. The French Secret Service has a great reputation for cleverness in this particular. From what I can find out, particular attention, for obvious reasons, is paid to mail to and from Switzerland, Italy and Spain. I do not believe that much attention is paid to American mail, on account of the time that will elapse before its receipt.

48. The physical difficulties of operating a strict censorship on all mail matter throughout a great country are such as to make it a practical impossibility. The favorite method in France of handling this question is to delay all mail in transmission wherever such action is deemed advisable. This delay may be localized or it may be made general, and from my own personal knowledge it lasts from two to ten days. This delay of the mail is a fairly practical method of handling the situation.

49. Mail for officers and enlisted men in the zone of the armies must be addressed to the Regimental Depot in the zone of the interior. Here it is made up, censored if necessary, and sent forward every few days. Mail from officers and soldiers at the front addressed to their friends in the rear is turned over to an officer of the organization with the envelope unsealed. It is censored by this officer and forwarded through the Field Post Office. Letters mailed from a Field Post Office have no

stamp which in any way indicates the place of mailing. Mail either from or to an officer or soldier, if marked "militaire," requires no postage during the war.

50. The French soldier is allowed much more liberty with his correspondence than the English soldier. The postal card with the printed phrases, "I am well," "I am ill," etc., with a place for marking an "x," so often considered in a military way as the only kind of correspondence that can be safely allowed a soldier, is unknown in France. I personally believe that under ordinary conditions it is an unnecessary hardship on the soldier and his family. During critical military periods the officers and enlisted men may be restricted to the use of postal cards, or their mail delayed, or if there is necessity for it, the mail sending privileges may be absolutely suspended. The French system in this matter is thoroughly practical and works well. The mail from and to civilians in the zone of the armies is censored very carefully.

51. In this connection, with respect to our own service, I strongly advise that each ship be supplied with a cancelling stamp, so that it would be impossible to tell from the envelope from which particular ship the letter came. As is known, the present cancelling stamps used on mail matter on board ship plainly bear the name of the ship. This system, while it does no harm in time of peace, would, in the event of war, be a serious detriment to the work of the Censor.

52. The mail service between belligerent countries was entirely suspended at the beginning of the war and has remained suspended since. Many French people residing in the rear of the French Army have received no news whatever from their friends and families who, at the beginning of the war, were living in towns now in the rear of the German lines and only a few miles away. For some time the Red Cross headquarters in Switzerland

tried to effect an arrangement whereby they were to act as a clearing house for this kind of mail, but without success. It is understood that the military danger of this correspondence was so great that the German Government entirely suspended civilian mail service in the zone of their armies. Even a rigorous censorship of the letters would not prevent leakage of military information. In consequence of the foregoing military difficulties, the plan of the Red Cross was not put into effect.

53. The Red Cross are operating a very efficient clearing house in Berne, where mail matter is received from and to prisoners of war held in Germany and France, and forwarded to its destination. The number of letters and postal cards that may be sent or received by prisoners of war in France is limited by regulations and must contain no military information or criticisms of treatment.

54. Censorship of Private and Commercial Telegrams and Cables. - The decrees given on pages 6 and 7 of this report cover this matter. The use of cipher or conventional language codes, except by Government Agencies and the heads of diplomatic missions is prohibited. Messages are received only in plain and comprehensible language. The only foreign languages accepted in telegrams are English and Italian. The sender at the time of having his message viséd must identify himself, and in the case of aliens he must present his passport and "permis de séjour." The first is of course issued by his own Government, with his photograph and description attached, while the second is a permit to reside in France. This latter is issued by the French police authorities and has on its face a photograph and description of the individual, his place of residence, and his reasons for being in France. All aliens are required to have such a permit and to present it whenever called for by the authorities.

The foregoing constitutes a pretty effective check on the leakings of military information by telegraph or cable.

55. Censorship of the Telephone. - All interurban and international telephonic communication has been suspended, except for official business of the higher French governmental authorities. As a matter of courtesy, and by special arrangement, the privilege of interurban telephonic communication is extended to the Diplomatic Corps.

French is the only language allowed to be used when telephoning from one place to another in the same city. Evidently someone occasionally listens to the conversations, for I have frequently been threatened with having "the communication cut" if I used any more English.

56. Journalists. - The only credentials required by a correspondent in order to submit his telegrams to the Censor are cards issued by the Chief of the Press Bureau of the Ministry of War. A superficial investigation of the men is usually made before the card is given. In the case of unknown foreign papers there is some difficulty about securing the card. In most cases the Foreign Office knows the correspondent and vouches for him, so that he gets the card immediately. In some cases the individual is required to present a letter of identification from the diplomatic representative of his country before the card is issued.

57. Practically the only purposes this card serves is to pass the journalist in the door of the Censor's Office, and allows him the privilege of having his press matter censored, and permits him to have copies of all official communiqués. At the same time, the journalist must have a passport and a "permis de séjour."

58. Nobody can circulate in an automobile on the roads of France, even in the zone of the interior, without a pass bearing



the names, descriptions and photographs of all carried in the automobile, together with an explanation of the purposes for which the pass is to be used and the route or locality in which it is good. You cannot go three or four miles in any direction without being stopped and having your pass examined. You may travel by railroad from one town to another in the zone of the Interior and out of the zone of the armies without a pass, but as soon as you arrive at your town of destination, you apply to the local police for a "permis de séjour" in that particular town.

59. To obtain either an automobile pass or a permit to go on a railroad train in the zone of the armies is a most difficult undertaking. These passes are on different colored paper from those used in the zone of the Interior, and in addition to the requirements of photographs, description, etc., it gives the day or days on which they are good, the exact route to be followed, and in detail the purposes of the trip. The regulations in this matter are very strictly enforced. Even French citizens living in the zone of the armies must carry identification papers and have passes for leaving the district in which they reside, or they are arrested. Officers and enlisted men when on the road and not in the immediate rear of their organizations must carry passes and show them to the guards. All of this care is taken to prevent spying.

60. I have explained in some detail these police measures as I wish to bring out the point of how difficult it is for a journalist to obtain any first hand information that the French authorities do not want him to have.

61. There was some demoralization in the police management behind the French armies during and for a few weeks after the Battle of the Marne. A number of War Correspondents took advantage of this demoralization to get first-hand information.

Some were successful, but many were landed in jail. To-day, as a police measure, the French system in this particular is efficient. The only way to-day to get information of what is going on at the front - that is to say, facts not officially made public - is through the indiscretions of individuals who have been at the front. The indiscreet man is not usually an officer of rank, and in consequence his sector of observation is more or less contracted, so that his information is often of little value. In other words, the "big fellow" who knows wont talk, and the "little fellow" who talks does not know much.

62. Now, the floating War Correspondent of fame has become discouraged with his situation in France, and so far as I know there are none now here. As I have explained before, the French are suspicious of this type and prefer to have their dealings with the permanent journalist who lives in France.

63. Neither native nor foreign journalists are permitted to visit the French line unaccompanied by an officer. None are permitted to remain continually in the zone of the armies. The leading foreign journalists are taken out on trips to the front every month or so for two or three days at a time. They are not taken to places where serious operations are underway. They agree before starting to submit their manuscript for revision before forwarding. They are not allowed to send any messages from the zone of the armies, and are usually not allowed to send the report of their observations by cable.

64. Generally speaking, the relations existing between the foreign journalists here in Paris and the Censor's Office are very good. In two instances, at least, the newspaper men have taken the initiative in supporting the work of the Censor. When former Senator Beveridge arrived here in Paris after writing his pro-Gorman articles, the American newspaper men themselves protested, in one case at least, through the American Ambassador,

against his being allowed newspaper privileges; also following the appearance of an article in the New York Evening Post by an American correspondent named Dunn, the American newspaper men framed a resolution of censure and had it published in all the leading Parisian papers.

65. In certain ways the French are clever in their handling of the foreign newspaper man, and in other ways I believe they may be criticized. Under their system of censorship and police, and dealing only with the resident newspaper correspondent, whose situation is such that he must do more or less what is wanted, they have a pretty strong hold on newspaper comment. This hold they have used effectively, with the result that such incidents as the "Rheims Cathedral," "The Palace of the Prince of Monaco," and sundry atrocity stories have been worked up in the foreign press to at least their full value. On the other hand, they have not taken advantage of this hold on foreign newspapers in other incidents, equally impressionable on the feelings of neutrals, and which could have been published without trespassing outside the bounds of "good taste."

Many incidents have occurred of individual bravery and sacrifice on the part of French soldiers which I personally believe could have been made public without any military danger, and which would have been useful in maintaining foreign interest and sympathy with the French cause.

66. General Joffre has been somewhat criticized by the French politicians for his apparent lack of interest in efforts made to control or guide foreign public opinions and sympathy.

67. I have recently noticed that more interest is being taken in this matter. At first the foreign correspondents' requests to visit the front were filed in the order of their applications, and those taken out were the first on the list, irrespective of the importance or power of the paper they repre-

seated. To-day, while for purposes of maintaining good feeling with the different correspondents this method is still followed in selecting those to go out on "the regular visits," there are nevertheless many small "special visits" in which discretion is used in the selection of the journalist.

68. Aside from the military information gathered on these visits and permitted to be made public, the only other source of information on military operations is that given to the journalist in the "Official Communiqué" and in the comments of the "Eye-Witness."

69. The "Official Communiqué" and the "Eye-Witness." - I believe that it can safely be said that no one thing has done more to keep up the confidence of the French people in their Army and Government during the war than the "Official Communiqué" of the War Department. It has been carefully prepared by men who have a thorough understanding of the psychology of the French people. I do not know of its ever having contained an untruthful statement, though it frequently omits reference to unpleasant subjects, reverses, etc. It is always optimistic, and the Frenchmen's families read it with a complacent feeling that all goes well. It contains no definite information of military operations. False information for military reasons is sometimes given out or inspired, but not in the War Department Communiqués. This false information may consist of a report of losses, say at Soissons, where the French had a reverse, to offset the effect on public opinion of the German reports contained in neutral papers. While I do not know definitely, I do believe that this has been done fairly often as a matter of military necessity, either for the purpose of cheering up the people or for misleading the Germans.

70. The War Department issues two "Official Communiqués" daily: one at 3 p.m. and one at 11 p.m. It also issues a weekly

account by the "Eye-Witness." This latter recounts in a narrative form the story of some particular action or local encounter, often with the names of places and individuals left out.

71. Early in the war there was a marked inconsistency between the recital of events as given day by day in the regular Communiqués, and as given in large quantities in the weekly "Eye-Witness" account. Of late this inconsistency has tended to disappear, because it made it patent to the public that the Communiqué was always from one to four days late. Now the Communiqué has the air of being brought out up to date, in that it recites events as of to-day or of yesterday, whereas formerly it did not give dates specifically.

72. The "Official Communiqué," as before explained, is prepared in the 2nd Bureau of the War Department, general Staff, and is based on the information communicated to this Bureau and authorized to be made public by General Joffre's Headquarters. The report of the "Eye-Witness" is prepared by an officer attached to the 2nd Bureau of general Joffre's General Staff.

73. The Navy Department and the Department of Foreign Affairs also issues "Official Communiqués" at irregular intervals. The public at large are not particularly interested in these. The French Navy so far has not been particularly active and therefore has little to give out. The "Communiqués" of the Foreign Office ordinarily are written solely for their international effect.

74. Killed and Wounded (Notification of Families).- Printed lists of the names of individuals killed or wounded, and statements of the total number of killed and wounded are not made public. Sometimes families are not notified of the death or wounding of husbands, brothers and sons until some weeks after the fact. The military necessity of concealing the organization or units engaged in a particular section of the theatre of

operations, at a particular time, makes this necessary. At the proper time lists of killed in a particular regiment or organization are transmitted to the Regimental Depots, which in turn notify the relatives.

75. Obituary notices are sometimes printed in the newspapers, but these are carefully censored and omit the names of organizations and the place of death.

*Germany**Need not be returned.*

EUROPEAN WAR 1914 - CAUSES OF THE  
 SUBJECT ~~WAR and EVENTS LEADING TO IT.~~

From Z No. 187 Date August 10, 1914., 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

The causes of the war lie far back of the series of events which commencing with the murder of the Heir to the Austrian throne towards the last days of June ended in the various declarations of war between the contending nations during the last days of July and the first days of August.

The course of events is explained with almost prophetic exactness in "The Interest of America in International Conditions" by Captain Alfred D. Mahan, published in 1910, and this book should be used as a basis of the study of the present European situation.

Quoting from Professor Delbrück, Professor of History in the University of Berlin, the following extract is given which applies exactly to this case :-

"The great conquests of the world's history have seldom been inspired by mere ambition. The Empires of the world have not been built up from the mere desire of power. Events have generally evolved themselves so that a conflict has arisen out of comparatively insignificant causes".

In the case of the present war the conditions had been developing over many years and the exact event which precipitated the war is of really small consequence. The war would have happened, if not at this time, then within a few years.

Mahan says:-

"The sympathies of Italy as distinguished from the pressure of conditions upon her, and from her formal association, are doubtful, and the essentials of the situation seem to be summed up in the Triple Entente opposed by the two Mid-Europe military monarchies"-

*fact*  
 This phrase, written years ago, gives exactly the situation as it has happened

"In a comparison of force, except naval force, ~~the latter (Germany-Austria)~~ everything favors the latter (Germany-Austria). They (Germany-Austria) stand locally shoulder to shoulder; bound, if by nothing else, by that facility for needed mutual support which their contract gives. This support, however, cannot be defensive only; no purely defensive attitude can be successfully maintained. There must be preparation at least for offense, the power to compel respect by ability to strike as well as to shield, an ability markedly shown in the enforcement of the Balkan annexations of 1908; while in the economical conditions of the two states, in the relations of populations to the means of existence, is to be seen the evidence that such striking, whatever the immediate nature or scene of the blow, must be directed towards at least

a reasonable control of access to the markets necessary to their industries over the world at large. The Austrian movement towards the Balkans and the Aegean is of this character. More and more, for over thirty years past, Germany has been changing from an agricultural to an industrial community. More and more for this reason she needs the assured importation of raw materials and, where, possible, control of regions productive of such materials. More and more she requires assured markets, and security as to the importation of food, because less and less comparatively is produced within her borders for her rapidly increasing population. This all means security at sea.

Under this combination of necessities, and and with this accession of power consequent upon national unity and national organization of strength, Germany at the opening of her course has found the markets, and the productive districts of the world outside her own borders substantially pre-empted by possession or control, alien to herself. Upon the splendid achievement of national unity, she has constituted for herself a huge industrial system, and has built a great merchant fleet now in incessant active employment, carrying the products of her industry, and maintaining the processes of intercourse. She has ships and she has commerce; but for the third link in the chain of exchange, for markets, outside the inadequate body of consumers constituted by her own population, she has to depend upon the strenuous condition of trade, in countries almost ~~foreign~~ wholly foreign to her control, made more arduous by the arbitrary provisions of other governments at a period when Protection is increasingly the note of the internal economy of states. The only valuable market which she can effectually command is that within her own borders; the few colonies she has been able to lay hold of, at the late period of her entry into the race for territory, offer no adequate prospect of relief in this respect.

Thus handicapped at the outset, Germany has found impediment to her career concentrated in a rival so near at hand as to be constantly in sight; thus by propinquity keeping alive the sense of obstruction. "

The extract just quoted gives a general view of the situation which is quite correct and to the Germans there was a sense of obstruction to their development by England's command of the sea, by her situation on Germany's commercial track, by the Monroe Doctrine of the United States, and the inability to acquire valuable colonial possessions. She has already developed herself, within herself, to the highest pitch.

Germany, however, did not wish for war, and above all, they did not wish for war with England. In my report No.169, of July 31, 1914, I noted that the underlying bitterness was on the English side. The Germans were rather content that through superior achievement they had developed and continued to develop a large commerce throughout the world



and that their Navy, though still much inferior in size to that of England, made at least a respectable showing against that power. England, however, continued her traditional policy of maintaining "the balance of power", which means keeping the balance in her own hands and so joins in the war to hold Germany from continuing her march of progress and prosperity.

It is not to be assumed from the foregoing that the German Emperor, or his government wanted to go to war with any power. On the contrary, the Emperor did all in his power to avoid it and was loyally backed by his subordinates, but once the mobilization of Russia was ordered and Germany felt threatened, the Germans went to arms fully convinced that the triple entente had determined to deny them opportunity to continue their prosperous career and to crush them if they could.

*to the President of the U.S.*

The following extract from a letter of the Emperor, written August 10th, in his own handwriting, which is highly confidential, shows his position on July 30th and 31st and the work he was trying to accomplish. These were the final and critical days of the negotiations.

1. " H.R.H. Prince Henry was received by His Majesty King George V in London who empowered him to transmit to me verbally that England would remain neutral, if war broke out on the Continent involving Germany, France, Austria, and Russia. This message was telegraphed to me by my brother from London after his conversation with H.M. the King and repeated verbally on the 29th of July. "

2. " My Ambassador in London transmitted a message from Sir E. Grey to Berlin saying that only in case France was likely to be crushed England would interfere. "

3. " On the 30th my Ambassador in London reported that Sir E. Grey, in course of a private conversation told him that if the conflict remained localized between Russia - not Servia - and Austria, England would not move, but if we "mixed" in the fray, she would take quick decision and grave maneuvers, etc., if I left my ally Austria in the lurch to fight alone England would not touch me. "

The Emperor finding this clause quite different from the message brought by Prince Henry, telegraphed to the King of England, to use his influence to prevent France and Russia from making "warlike preparations" and that he was in constant communication with the Czar and was trying to mediate between Austria and Russia ( See telegrams concerning this in "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of August 4, No.180, last page).

The answer to the telegram to the King of England received the same evening was that he had ordered his Government to use every possible influence with his allies "to refrain" from taking any provocative measures.

The Emperor continues:-

" At the same time H.M. asked me I should transmit to Vienna the British proposal that Austria was to take Belgrade and a few other Servian towns and a strip of country as a "main-mise" to make sure that the Servian promises should be fulfilled in reality. This proposal was at the same moment telegraphed to me from Vienna and London, quite in conjunction with the British proposal, besides I had telegraphed to H.M. the Czar the same as an idea of mine before I received the two communications from Vienna and London. I felt I was able to tide the question over and was happy at the peaceful outlook".

The Emperor continues showing that during the night the Czar gave the order for the general mobilization. There was still some hope to keep the flame from spreading.

" In a telegram from London my Ambassador informed me he understood the British Government would guarantee the neutrality of France and wished to know whether Germany would refrain from attack. I telegraphed to H.M. the King personally, that mobilization being already carried out could not be stopped, but if H.M. would guarantee with his armed forces the neutrality of France I would refrain from attacking her, leave her alone and employ my forces elsewhere. H. M. answered that he thought my offer was based on a misunderstanding and so far as I can make out Sir E. Grey never took my offer into serious consideration. He never answered it. Instead he declared England had to defend Belgian neutrality, which had to be violated by Germany on strategical grounds, news having been received that France was already preparing to enter Belgium".

To sum up. The cause primarily emanates from the natural growth of a state (Germany) which through its talents for organization and the subordination of its individuals to the general welfare threatens to outstrip the surrounding states. The immediate cause was due to the great Slav country, Russia, siding by racial sympathy with Servia when threatened in its sovereignty by Austria, the ally of Germany.

That England, France and Germany did not want to go to war ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and would have gladly avoided it I fully believe. That the Russian Czar did not want to go to war is also probable, but he was forced by his own government, which is the war party, to order the mobilization which threatened Germany and gave the verdict for war.

That the United States will in the future by purely natural expansion and development be drawn into wars equally great, sudden, and undesired, is beyond question.

That her fleet will be to her then what the British fleet is to England to-day is equally beyond question. To render America safe she needs by constant development to bring into being a naval force that can protect her territory and those to which her policies extend against a combination of nations equal to those which now combine to secure the downfall of Germany.

*Germany*

**SUBJECT** EUROPEAN WAR 1914 - STRATEGIC POSITIONS  
OCCUPIED BY THE VARIOUS FLEETS AFTER ENGLAND  
DECLARED WAR.

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From Z No. 188 Date August 10, 1914, 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

The German Battle Squadron of the High Sea Fleet with torpedo boats passed through the Kiel Canal, bound West, on Sunday August 8. I should therefore figure that the German High Sea Fleet with some of the Baltic Sea flotillas and with an unknown number of reserve ships are in the North Sea, in the vicinity of Wilhelmshaven and amply protected against torpedo boat and submarine attack.

The Russian Baltic Fleet was on the same date stated to be in a sheltered position in the Gulf of Finland and protected from attack by mine fields.

The British Main Fleet was first reported to have occupied a strategic position in the North Sea, equally distant from the mouth of the Skagerack and the Northern entrance of the English Channel. The German airships (L3 and two chartered Zeppelins) together with the aeroplanes from Helgoland have scoured the North Sea without finding them and it is now reported that they also are secure from torpedo boats and submarines, and in a position on the East Coast of England where they can reach the Channel, or the Coast of Norway in time to intercept the German Fleet, should they come out.

Submarine boats of both nations have been along each others coasts and the scouting forces are constantly cruising.

OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

COPY.

September 29, 1914.

FML.

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Report of Naval Attaché, Rome, No.221, August 13, 1914.

VICE ADMIRAL LEONE VIALE, MINISTER OF THE MARINE,  
ITALIAN NAVY.

1. Vice Admiral LEONE VIALE on August 12th assumed the portfolio of the Navy, Vice Millo, who was forced to resign owing to ill health.

2. Admiral Viale is recognized as a most capable officer, not only as an administrator but as a seaman. He is 63 years old and has served 43 years in the Navy. He became a Vice Admiral February 3, 1911.

3. He was in command of the Naval Forces during the second part of the war between Italy and Turkey, handling them most efficiently. He was in command during the attacks on the Turkish ports of Sed-Ul-Bolir and Kum-Kate at the mouth of the Dardanelles, and ordered the raid of the straits by the destroyers.

*Germany**Need not be returned. 58.15*

SUBJECT EUROPEAN WAR - 1914  
 SITUATION before August 15, 1914.

From Z No. 194 Date August 15, 1914., 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

So far as can be learned here the following is the situation in the German Fleet:-

The High Sea Fleet is all near Wilhelmshaven protected against torpedo attack. The small cruisers of the scouting division are out using Helgoland as a base.

Grand-Admiral Prince Henry of Prussia has been made Commander-in-Chief of the naval forces in the Baltic which consist of reserve ships with some flotillas of torpedo boats and perhaps a few of the old submarines. Enough of a force to hold the Russian fleet in check.

The Russian dreadnaughts are reported to be in an incompleated condition, the first of them can not be ready for commission until November. The "Andrei Perwoswanny" ran ashore and it is said to be doubtful if she can be gotten off the rocks or be repaired to take part in this war.

To fill up the High Sea Fleet and Scouting Ships and to form the Baltic Fleet, the following are believed to have gone into commission.

		<u>Tons.</u>	<u>H.P.</u>
1.	BRAUNSCHWEIG	13,200	16,000
2.	ELSASS	13,200	16,000
3.	KAISER BARBAROSSA	11,100	13,000
4.	KAISER FRIEDRICH III	11,100	13,000
5.	KAISER KARL D.GR.	11,100	13,000
6.	KAISER WILH'D!GR.	11,100	13,000
7.	KAISER WILHELM II	11,100	13,000
8.	MECKLENBURG	11,800	13,600
9.	SCHWABEN	11,800	14,000
10.	ZAEHRINGEN	11,800	14,000

LARGE CRUISERS.

1.	FREYA	5,700	10,000
2.	FUERST BISMARCK	10,700	13,500
3.	KAISERIN AUGUSTA	6,100	13,000
4.	PRINZ HEINRICH	8,900	15,000
5.	ROON	9,500	19,000
6.	YORCK	9,500	19,000

and a number of small cruisers.

In addition all reserve and school torpedo flotillas have been fully manned and placed in service.

Positive orders against publishing names or pictures of military leaders have been issued and I do not know what Admirals have been assigned to the Baltic Fleet except Prince Henry.

For the Admirals of the High Sea Fleet my  
Report No. 3 of January 7, 1914, <sup>see</sup>

There have been practically no changes since  
that report

Germany

58.17

Need not be returned.

SUBJECT EUROPEAN WAR 1914. CALLING OUT OF  
THE "LANDSTURM" (LAST LEVY).

From Z No. 195 Date August 17, 1914, 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

The following is the translation of the order calling out the "LANDSTURM" :-

THE IMPERIAL ORDER.

The "Reichsgesetzblatt" publishes the following order concerning the Call for the "LANDSTURM":

" I, William, by the Grace of God, German Emperor, King of Prussia, etc, order the following, in accordance with Article II, par. 35 of the Law concerning changes in the Military Liability Act of February 11, 1888, ( Reichsgesetzblatt page 11 ) in the name of the Empire:-

§ 1.

All members of the "Landsturm" of the First Levy, those who have been attached to it, and those who have been transferred to it from the Supernumary Class of Reserves ( Ersatz Reserve ) are herewith called in.

Excluded from the call are those who have been mustered out completely from service in the Army and Navy, on account of physical or mental ailments.

The men called in will have to report to their local authorities with their military papers, if they have any, in order to be enrolled in the "Landsturm".

§ 2.

All classes of years of the "Landsturm" of the 3d Levy, who have been transferred to the "Landsturm" from the "Landwehr" or "Seewehr" of the 3d Class, are called in for active service. Special orders will be issued as to the time of report.

§ 3.

This order does not apply to the Royal Bavarian territories.

Given under my own hand and seal

Berlin, Castle, August 15, 1914.

WILLIAM.

v. Bethmann Hollweg. "



That these men would be called out fourteen days after the mobilization was ordered, was foreshadowed at the time of mobilization.

Of the six million men now in the field, or about taking it, the best estimates are that 4,500,000 will be employed against the French, while 1,500,000 will hold the Russian border. No invasion of Russia is contemplated.

Germany

Need not be returned

SUBJECT EUROPEAN WAR -1914. SPIRIT OF THE  
PEOPLE OF GERMANY.

From Z No. 198 Date August 18, 1914., 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

The "Landsturm" (last reserve) has been called out. The first day of "Landsturm" mobilization being the 17th of August.

All serviceable males from the ages of 17 to 45 have therefore been mustered in except about 1 1/3 million volunteers for whom room in the organizations has not yet been found. These are mostly men who were excused from military service by reason of not being up to the standard.

From my observations here and from that of intelligent Americans coming in from all parts of Germany, the spirit of the people is splendid.

No sacrifice of life or money is too great to make. They are determined to win, and feel that defeat means the end of their national existence. The troops are cheerful and full of enthusiasm and patriotism.

The women of Germany are doing their full share. Hospitals great and small, convalescent homes and establishments to care for families left in distress have sprung up everywhere and vast sums of money and donations of goods have been given.

Corps of women serve at the Railroad Stations and feed the troops in transit.

All face the situation with the greatest courage and self-sacrifice.

19

58  
20

*Germany*

**SUBJECT** EUROPEAN WAR 1914

MEMORIAL RELATIVE TO THE POSITION OF ENGLAND AND FRANCE TOUCHING THE LONDON MARITIME DECLARATION.

From *Z* No. 315 Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

In accordance with an order in council of August 20, 1914 the British government will observe the declaration of London of February 26, 1909, during the present hostilities, subject to certain additions and modifications. These additions and modifications however are of such a nature as to vitiate the declaration of London in material points, and thereby likewise violate modern international law. Further very considerable modifications of the declaration of London are contained in a British proclamation dated September 21, 1914.

I.

The most incisive modification of the declaration of London is to be found in the provisions concerning conditional contraband contained under No. 3 and 5 of the order in council.

The declaration of London provides in Article 33 that the definition of conditional contraband should not apply, except when the goods shipped are destined for the use of the administration or the armed forces of the enemy country. Furthermore pursuant to article 35, the definition of conditional contraband is excluded when the ship is on a voyage to a neutral port.

These provisions which are in the main declarative of existing international law, and rest upon an equitable consideration of the interests of belligerents and neutrals, are as good as vitiated by the order in council.

For, according to No. 3 of the order, the destination of goods to the enemy shall be presumed in all cases where the recipient of the goods is under the control of the authorities of the enemy state; this means nothing else than that any shipment consigned to the enemy country is subject to capture, since all

residents of the enemy country are under the control of the authorities of the country. This provision is supplemented by No.5 of the order which provides that a ship bound for a neutral port can also be captured because of conditional contraband. Thus the doctrine of continuous voyage which is only applicable to absolute contraband under article 35 of the declaration of London, is extended to apply to conditional contraband.

In this manner the milder rules of the declaration of London, relative to conditional contraband, are eliminated, and conditional contraband is placed in effect upon the same footing as absolute contraband. Through this procedure neutral trade with objects which constitute conditional contraband, especially food for the provision of the population of a belligerent State, which is recognized as legitimate by existing international law, is made practically illusory, and thus the interests of the belligerent as well as the neutral are injured, contrary to international law. As is shown by the events at the seat of maritime war, Englands practice in this direction is most regardless in that it even assumes control of supplies required for Germanys neighbours, and thereby renders insecure the provision of these countries.

## II.

The British Government believes that it can disregard without further formality the lists of absolute contraband, conditional contraband and articles not to be declared contraband contained in Articles 22, 24 and 28 of the Declaration of London. In the declaration of contraband dated August 5, 1914, and upheld by No.1 of the Order in Council, aircraft and their distinctive component parts are described as absolute contraband, whereas they can only be considered relative contraband under Article 24, No.8, of the Declaration of London. Above all the British Government has by Proclamation dated September 21, 1914, declared rubber, hides and skins and various kinds of iron ore to be conditional contraband, al-

though these articles are not, or only very remotely, adapted to warlike purposes and are therefore on the free list of Article 28; (see Nos.3,4,6). This is at the same time a direct violation of generally accepted rules of international law which provide that neutral trade in articles serving exclusively peaceable purposes cannot be interfered with by belligerents.

### III.

A further accentuation of the provisions relative to contraband results from No.2 of the Order in Council. For Article 38 of the Declaration of London in concurrence with existing international law does not permit the capture of a ship because of contraband unless the contraband is on board the ship; it is however the intention of the British Government to seize the ship at any time during its whole voyage if it succeeded in carrying contraband with false papers. This being the case, neutral shipping with territory of the enemy is subject to continual molestation, since ships will be detained not only on the ground of a patent fact, such as the presence of contraband, but also on the ground of an assertion as to the earlier conduct of the ship often not demonstrable.

### IV.

The provisions of No.4 of the Order in Council leave undue latitude to capture for breach of blockade, since the existence of a blockade is to be presumed to be known to all ships which sailed from or touched at an enemy port a sufficient time after the notification of the blockade to the local authorities of the port blockaded. By this provision the British Government intends to draw the authorities of the enemy country into the service of its own naval forces to an extent reaching beyond the limits drawn by international law, and to force such service by the capture of neutral ships.

V.

Pursuant to a principle of international law which found confirmation in the Declaration of London only such persons found on board a neutral merchant ship can be made prisoners of war as are already embodied in the armed forces of the enemy. This rule results from Article 45 paragraph 1 No.2 taken in connection with Article 47 and is more precisely defined in the General Report of the Drafting Committee of the Conference of London in the first paragraph of the Notes to Article 45; as the General Report remarks, the whole Conference agreed for juridical as well as practical reasons that only active military persons are liable to capture on a neutral ship, but not persons such as reservists for example who are proceeding to their native country in order to fulfill their general military duty. Although the British Order in Council recognizes the two articles specified as well as the commentary contained in the General Report as binding on the Government, the British naval forces have nevertheless taken from merchant vessels under the Dutch the Norwegian and the Italian flags Germans liable to military service who were not embodied in the armed forces and made them prisoners of war. In this manner they have not merely directly violated the principles of international law affirmed by the Declaration of London but also the provisions of their own public law.

According to a Decree of the President of the French Republic published in the Journal Officiel of August 26, 1914, France has taken the same position as Great Britain in its Order in Council. French naval forces have then in the same manner as the British taken Germans liable to military duty from neutral ships, particularly Dutch and Spanish ships.

Thus these ordinances, and more particularly the naval forces of Great Britain and France, disregard in the most arbitrary manner the rules laid down in the London Maritime War Declaration. Their object is quite plainly to strike not only

the military establishment but also the economic system of their enemies by crippling neutral trade, and in so doing they encroach without warrant upon the legitimate trade of neutrals with the enemy as well as upon the trade of neutrals with each other. It is true that the Declaration of London has not yet been ratified; but as the plenipotentiaries of the signatory powers, including the British and French plenipotentiaries, expressly declared in the preliminary provision, the rules of the Declaration of London are substantially responsive to the generally accepted principles of international law. The violations of the Declaration of London which Great Britain and France have thought fit to commit must therefore be considered in the light of violations of international law, which are all the more grievous in view of the fact that in the wars where Great Britain was a neutral, - the Russian-Japanese War, for instance, - she protested most emphatically against such violations of law. (See English Blue Book, Russia No.1, 1905, Correspondence respecting Contraband of War, p.8 et seq.).

The Imperial German Government has hitherto strictly observed the provisions of the Declaration of London and has faithfully reproduced its substance in the German Prize Ordinance, a copy of which is attached; it has not permitted itself to relax from this attitude even in the face of the flagrant violations of law on the part of its adversaries. The Imperial Government is forced however to question whether it can persist in this attitude if the enemy powers continue the practice hitherto adopted by them, and the neutral powers acquiesce in such violations of neutrality to the disfavor of German interests. The German Government accordingly esteems it of great value to learn what position the Government of the United States of America proposes to take respecting the attitude assumed by Great Britain and France contrary to international law.

Berlin, October 10, 1914.

*Germany*

*SUBJECT* EUROPEAN WAR 1914. NAVAL OFFICERS  
WHO HAVE GONE TO THE FRONT WITH THE EMPEROR'S  
STAFF.

*From* Z *No.* 303 *Date* August 21, 1914., 19

*Replying to O. N. I. No.* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_, 19

The Emperor left to take the field on August 16, 1914. Included in his Headquarters Staff are those naval officers responsible for the various branches of the Navy.

There are with the Emperor in the field:-

Grossadmiral von TIRPITZ, Minister of the Navy.  
Admiral von MUELLER, Chief of the Naval Cabinet,  
Admiral von POHL, Chief of the Admiralty Staff,  
Captain HOPMAN, Chief of the Central Division of  
the Imperial Navy Office.

These officers maintain close telegraphic communication with their offices in the Navy Department.

Acting for Grossadmiral von TIRPITZ in Berlin is Admiral von CAPELLE, the Assistant Minister for the Navy. Captain HOPMAN is replaced by ~~a retired~~ Vice Admiral.

*Dählhardt.*



*Germany*

Need not be returned. 21(2)

SUBJECT EUROPEAN WAR 1914 -  
MINES AND MINE SWEEPING.

From Z No. 304 Date August 31, 1914., 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

It is too early to draw conclusions about anything in this war, but from information given me at the Reichs-Marine-Amt it appears that the mine as a weapon of *offense and* defense is likely to be important.

It is considered necessary for a fleet or any sub-division of important ships to have the means at its disposal to close its anchorage against submarine attack and with a type of mine which can be safely recovered and carried along.

Even in exposed neutral anchorages, such as Norwegian bays, submarine attack could be carried on without the neutrals knowledge, ships are not safe from attack.

Not only are the waters carefully watched, where mines can be planted, but every morning channels over which ships may have to pass during the day are searched by the mine searching divisions. The English have so far laid no mines on the German coast, but they are expected to do so.

These mine searching divisions are well trained and manned by specialized officers and crews. The reserves who did their active service in this branch of the Navy were used to fill up the reserve boats and the additional tugs taken in to increase this branch ( See Z-208 of December 3, 1913)

That the English capital ships are protected by mines is without doubt. The Reichs-Marine-Amt tells me their submarines have been along the English coast, as far as the Orkneys and have found no opportunity to do damage.

The Russian fleet is well known to be behind mine fields.

Germany

SUBJECT EUROPEAN WAR 1914.  
LOSS OF SUBMARINE "U 15".

From Z No. 205 Date August 21, 1914., 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

I have inquired at the Reichs-Marine-Amt with regard to the loss of the "U 15" and they state that the boat did not come back from an expedition to the English coast and they believe she was sunk as stated in the English newspapers by the gun fire of an English cruiser.

Germany

Need not be returned <sup>21</sup>  
(4)

SUBJECT NEUTRALITY OF SWEDEN.

From Z No. 306 Date August 31, 1914., 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

When I was in Sweden July 23 - 27, 1914, I had opportunity to talk over Sweden's position in case of European war with naval officers and representative officials and citizens. There was a very strong feeling that Sweden should join with Germany in case of war against Russia.

If Sweden does not go to war at the present time, she feels that later on Germany will have no reason to protect her from Russian aggression.

The Swedish nightmare is that Russia will in time absorb her as she has Finland in the past. It is quite possible that Sweden will be drawn into this war.

I attach a clipping bearing on the situation.

Subject. Regulations governing Newspapers on the eve  
of war.

From W. No. 58. Date Aug. 23, 1914.

Replying to O. N. I. No. ~~XXXXXX~~ Date ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE  
RECEIVED  
SEP 25 1914

Navy Department Ordinance No. 8 of August 16, 1914.

In accordance with Art. 27 of the Regulations Governing Newspapers, publication in newspapers of movements of squadrons, men-of-war and other vessels, and armed forces, and other matters relating to military secrets and strategy is prohibited for the present. However this does not apply to those for which permission of the minister of the Navy is obtained beforehand.

This Ordinance takes effect from the date of promulgation.  
This 16th day of August, 1914.

Rokuro Yashiro,  
minister of the Navy.

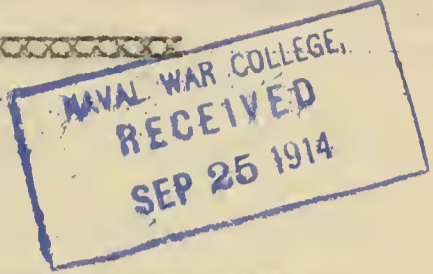
Subject Declaration of War by Japan against Germany

*Need not be returned.*

dated August 23, 1914.

From W. No. 59. Date August 24, 1914.

Replying to O. N. I. No. ~~XXXXXX~~ Date ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~



The Imperial Decree.

We, by the Grace of Heaven, Emperor of Japan, seated on the Throne occupied by the same Dynasty from time immemorial, do hereby make the following proclamation to all Our loyal and brave subjects :-

We hereby declare war against Germany and We command Our Army and Navy to carry on hostilities against that Empire with all their strength, and We also command all Our competent Authorities to make every effort, in pursuance of their respective duties, to attain the national aim, by all the means within the limits of the law of nations.

Since the outbreak of the present war in Europe, the calamitous effects of which We view with grave concern, We, on Our part, have entertained hopes of preserving the peace of the Far East by the maintenance of strict neutrality. But the action of Germany has at length compelled Great Britain, Our Ally, to open hostilities against that country, and Germany is, at Kiao-chou, its leased territory in China, busy with warlike preparations, while its armed vessels cruising the seas of Eastern Asia are threatening Our commerce and that of Our Ally. The peace of the Far East is thus in jeopardy. Accordingly, Our Government and that of His Britannic Majesty, after a full and frank communication with each other, agreed to take such measures as may be necessary for the protection of the general interests contemplated in the Agreement of Alliance, and We, on Our part, being desirous to attain that object by peaceful means, commanded Our Government to offer,

with sincerity, an advice to the Imperial German Government. By the last day appointed for the purpose, however, Our Government failed to receive an answer accepting their advice.

It is with profound regret that We, in spite of Our ardent devotion to the cause of peace, are thus compelled to declare war, especially at this early period of Our reign and while We are still in mourning for Our lamented Mother.

It is Our earnest wish that, by the loyalty and valor of Our faithful subjects, peace may soon be restored and the glory of the Empire be enhanced.

By, Sign Manual. Imperial Seal.

Counter Signature.

58  
124 (2)

Subject Declaration of Japanese Navy Department  
re contraband.

From W. No. 61. Date August 24, 1914.

Replying to O. N. I. No. ~~XXXXXX~~ Date ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

WAR COLLEGE,  
RECEIVED  
SEP 25 1914

Navy Department Ordinance No. 1.

August 23, 1914.

Goods to be considered contraband of war during the war between Japan and Germany are decided as follows:-

Rokuro Yashiro,

Minister of the Navy.

Art. 1. Goods mentioned below are absolute contraband of war :-

1. Arms of all kinds, including arms for sporting purposes, and their distinctive component parts.

2. Projectiles, charges, and cartridges of all kinds, and their distinctive component parts.

3. Powder and explosives specially prepared for use in war.

4. Gun mountings, limber boxes, limbers, military wagons, field forges and their distinctive component parts.

5. Clothing and equipment of a distinctly military character.

6. All kinds of harness of a distinctively military character.

7. Engineering tools and materials of a distinctively military character.

8. Saddle, draught, and pack animals suitable for use in war.

9. Articles of camp equipment, and their distinctive component parts.

Binding Margin.

10. Armor plates.

11. Warships, including boats, and their distinctive component parts of such a nature that they can only be used on a vessel of war.

12. Balloons and flying machines and their distinctive component parts, together with accessories and articles recognizable as intended for use in connection with balloons and flying machines.

13. Implements and apparatus designed exclusively for the manufacture of munitions of war, for the manufacture or repair of arms, or war material for use on land or sea.

Art. 2. The following articles are conditional contraband of war :-

1. Foodstuffs.

2. Forage and grain, suitable for feeding animals.

3. Clothing, fabrics for clothing, and boots and shoes, suitable for use in war.

4. Gold and silver in coin or bullion; paper money.

5. Vehicles of all kinds available for use in war, and their component parts.

6. Vessels, craft, and boats of all kinds; floating docks, parts of docks, and their component parts.

7. Railway material, both fixed and rolling stock, and material for telegraphs, wireless telegraphs and telephones.

8. Fuel; lubricants.

9. Powder and explosives not specially prepared for use in war.

10. Barbed wire and implements for fixing and cutting the same.



11. Horseshoes and shoeing materials.
12. Harness and saddlery.
13. Field glasses, telescopes, chronometers, and all kinds of nautical instruments.

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( Note by W. The foregoing declaration follows the Declaration of London of February 26, 1909, except that under absolute contraband (7) is introduced and (12) has been transferred from conditional contraband to absolute contraband. )

58  
24  
(3)

Subject Defense Sea Areas in German-Japanese war.

*Need not be returned.*

From W. No. 62. Date August 24, 1914.

Replying to O. N. I. No. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Date ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Navy Department Notification No. 5.

August 23, 1914.

From August 23, 1914, the following place will be the  
Basebo Defense Sea Area.

Rokuro Yashiro,

Minister of the Navy.

The sea area within the line connecting Sai-no-hana,  
south extremity of Imoto-jima, Otate-jima, Shishiki-zaki, and  
Kanzaki-hana. However Omure Bay is not included in the area.

*Sasebo Defense Sea Area*



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SEP 25 1914

Navy Department Notification No. 6.

August 23, 1914.

From August 23, 1914, the following place will be the Bako Defense Sea Area.

Rokuro Yashiro,  
Minister of the Navy.

The sea area within the line connecting Litsitah Point, south extremity of Kosei-cho and Ko-kaku.



The Commander-in-Chief of the Sasebo Naval Station has promulgated the following rules for the control of the Sasebo Defense Sea Area and of vessels navigating therein.

Rules relating to the Sasebo Defense Sea Area and Vessels Navigating therein.

Art. 1. The general control over the water within the naval port is in charge of the Harbor Master of Sasebo and

that over the entrance to the port and the waters outside of the entrance is in charge of the Commander of Defense of the Entrance of Port, Sasebo.

Art. 2. Any vessels other than those belonging to the army or the navy, which desire to enter or leave the port or to pass it, must obtain the permission of the Commander-in-Chief of the Sasebo Naval Station beforehand. However, vessels less than 20 tons, gross, or vessels less than 200 "koku" capacity, or boats or any other vessels wholly or principally driven by oars, shall, in spite of these rules, stop near the entrance of the port and receive directions from the Commander of Defense of Port Entrance.

Art. 3. Vessels which desire to enter, leave or pass the Defense Sea Area or to anchor therein, must first stop at a stopping place and receive directions from the watch vessel specially stationed there or from a pilot vessel with regard to their movements, beacons, signals, etc.

Art. 4. The stopping places of vessels are as follows :-

When entering	( About 1 mile west of	About 1 mile south of
	( Kanzaki-hana.	Shishiki-zaki.
When leaving	( About 1 mile west of	Southern part of
	( Mitoko-hana.	Terajima-suido.
	( South of Iwo-zaki	within the naval port.

Art. 5. A specially stationed watch vessel or a pilot vessel will always be near the stopping places.

Art. 6. The pilot vessels which shall guide vessels which enter, leave or pass the Defense Sea Area, hoist the following signal :-

Daytime,- Pilot flag (square flag, upper part white, lower part red)

Night,- 2 white lights.

Art. 7. Vessels navigating the Defense Sea Area, shall not steam at a speed higher than 8 knots.

Art. 8. With regard to vessels belonging to persons living on the coast of the Defense Sea Area, in daytime, the prohibition of Art. 4 shall not be enforced and Art. 2 shall not be applied.

Art. 9. Fishing, taking sea-weeds, swimming, etc. are prohibited within the Defense Sea Area, unless with permission of the Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Station.

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The Commander of the Bako Secondary Naval Station has promulgated the following rules for the control of the Bako Defense Sea Area and of vessels navigating therein :-

Rules relating to the Bako Defense Sea Area and Vessels Navigating therein.

Art. 1. These rules are applicable to vessels other than those belonging to the army or the navy, which desire to enter, leave or pass the Defense Sea Area, when Bako has been designated as such.

Art. 2. No vessels other than those belonging to the army or the navy shall be permitted to enter or leave the Defense Sea Area without permission of the Commander of the Station.

Art. 3. Vessels which desire to obtain the permission of the preceding article, shall apply for it beforehand and receive permit for passage to and from the Defense Sea Area. This permit shall not be loaned or transferred to another.

Art. 4. Vessels which desire to enter or leave the Defense Sea Area (including vessels of the preceding article which are required to obtain permission) shall stop at one

of the following places, and shall wait for a pilot, showing the signals prescribed in Art. 5:-

1. When entering,- A place not less than 1 1/2 miles from the Kitsushibi (Litsitah) lighthouse of Gyoo-to between the lines drawn southwest and southwest by south from the same lighthouse.
2. When leaving,- Within the line drawn between Fukibikaku and Kaikan-gan.

Art. 5. Vessels which have stopped at the above places shall display their signal letters and also the following signals :-

In steamers, flag asking for a pilot, and steam whistle shall be sounded repeatedly.

In sailing vessels, flag asking for a pilot, and horn shall be blown.

Art. 6. When the pilot vessel has recognized vessels of the preceding article, it shall hoist in answer the answering pennant of the international code, and shall guide the vessels. However, with regard to vessels which ask for the permission of Art. 2, instruction from the Station must be waited for.

When the pilot vessel permits free movements to the vessels, the answering pennant of the preceding article shall be hauled down.

Art. 7. The pilot vessel shall display in daytime the pilot flag (upper part white, lower part red) of the special signals to be used for British vessels of the international code, and at night two white lights abreast from the fore mast.

Art. 8. Vessels navigating the Defense Sea Area are liable to inspection by the watch or pilot vessel and must give clear answers to inquiries from them.

Art. 9. Steamers in entering or leaving port, shall steam at a speed not more than 5 knots.

Art. 10. In the following sea areas and channels, arrival or passage of all vessels is forbidden except with special permission of the Commander of the Station:-

The sea areas three miles around Boko Island, Kosei-cho, Gyoo-to, Hakusa-to, Kitsubai-cho, and Mokuto-cho.

Art. 11. When passage of vessels is totally prohibited within the Defense Sea Area, the N flag of the international code shall be displayed at the signal station at Iitsitah Point.

Art. 12. From sunset to sunrise, the passage to and from the Defense Sea Area of vessels except those specially permitted is prohibited.

Art. 13. With regards to oar driven vessels belonging to residents of the Defense Sea Area, the prohibition of Art. 4 shall not be enforced in daytime.

Art. 14. Fishing and taking sea weeds are prohibited within the Defense Sea Area unless with permission of the Commander of the Station.

Art. 15. Vessels less than 20 tons, gross, or those less than 200 "koku", or those driven principally or wholly with oars may pass the Defense Sea Area in spite of the rules of Arts. 1, 2 and 3. However, passage of such vessels may temporarily be restricted or prohibited.

Art. 16. In case any vessel coming under the preceding article passes at night the Defense Sea Area in violation of Art. 3 of Regulations Governing Defense Sea Area, it may be fired at from the patrol or watch vessels.

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Subject Declaration re treatment of German merchant vessels  
in or bound for Japanese ports at the beginning of hostilities.

From W. No. 60. Date Aug. 24, 1914.  
Replying to O. N. I. No. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Date ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
*Need not be returned*

SEP 25 1914

We sanction regulations relating to exemption of vessels of the German Empire from capture and cause them to be promulgated.

Imperial Signature. Imperial Seal.

This 23rd day of August 1914.

Count Shigenobu Okuma,  
Minister President of State.  
Rokuro Yashiro,  
Minister of the Navy.

Imperial Ordinance No. 163, of Aug. 23, 1914.

Art. 1. A vessel of the German Empire which is, at the time of the enforcement of this Ordinance, staying at a port or anchorage within the Japanese Empire or within districts governed by Japan, may, by September 5th, 1914, land her cargo at the port or anchorage, and may take in goods which are not contraband of war and may finish business which was negotiated with good faith before the opening of the war and is being actually transacted, and requesting the Japanese authorities for a passport and obtaining it, may sail direct for the port of her destination or the port designated in the passport.

Art. 2. A German vessel which has left the last port of call before August 23, 1914, and arrived at a port or anchorage within Japan or districts governed by Japan, not knowing the fact of the opening of war, may immediately land her cargo at the port or anchorage and may take in goods which are not contraband of war, and may finish her transactions, and requesting the Japanese authorities for passport and obtaining it, may

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sail direct to the port of her destination or the port designated in the passport. In this case the vessel must sail within two weeks from her arrival at the port or anchorage at a date to be designated by the Japanese authorities.

Art. 3. A German vessel which has left a port or an anchorage in Japan or in districts governed by Japan in accordance with the provisions of the preceding two articles, shall not be captured while she is en route to the port of her destination or the port designated in the passport. However this rule does not apply to a vessel which has touched at another port or anchorage of Japan or of districts governed by Japan, or a port or an anchorage of the country to which the vessel belongs, or of districts governed by that country.

Art. 4. A German vessel which, on account of force that cannot be resisted, has not been able to leave a port or an anchorage of Japan or of districts governed by Japan within the period provided in Art. 1 or 2, or a German vessel which was not permitted to leave, may be detained under the obligation that it shall be returned after the war without paying any damages, or may be requisitioned under the obligation that damages shall be paid.

Art. 5. A German vessel which has left the last port of call before the opening of war and which does not know the fact of the opening of war when she encounters Japanese men-of-war, shall not be captured.

A vessel coming under the preceding paragraph may be detained under the obligation that she shall be returned after the war without paying damages, or may be requisitioned or destroyed under the obligation that damages shall be paid, safety of persons on board guaranteed and ship's papers preserved.

A vessel coming under paragraph 1 shall be treated ac-

7  
ording to rules and customs of maritime warfare after she has touched at a port of her own country or a port of a neutral country.

Art. 6. The enemy goods on board a vessel coming under Art. 1, Art. 2, Art. 4, or the preceding article, may be detained under the obligation that they shall be returned after the war without paying damages, or may be requisitioned together with, or separate from, the vessel under the obligation to pay damages.

Art. 7. This Ordinance is not applicable to a German vessel of which it is very clear from its construction that it can be converted into a man-of-war.

Art. 8. In case Germany gives to Japanese vessels and goods treatments different from those prescribed in this Ordinance, the whole or part of this Ordinance may not be enforced.

Supplementary Clause.

This Ordinance takes effect from the date of promulgation.

58  
29  
(1)*Germany*

~~SUBJECT EUROPEAN WAR -1914. LOSS of GERMAN  
CRUISER "MAGDEBURG".~~

From Z No. 316 Date August 29, 1914., 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

This occurrence was officially given out on August 28th 1914 as follows:-

Berlin, August 27, 1914. ( W.T.B. )

H.M.S.S. "MAGDEBURG" grounded on the occasion of an attack in the Finnish Bay in the vicinity of the island Odenholm during a thick fog. Help through other ships was impossible on account of the heavy fog. As it was not possible to get the ship off, she was blown up on the arrival of superior Russian forces, thus meeting an honorable end. Torpedoboat V 36 rescued the greatest part of the crew during a hostile fire. The losses of "MAGDEBURG" and " V 36 " cannot at the present time be exactly determined. The following is known up to the present time:- Dead 17, wounded 21, missing 85, among the latter the captain of the "MAGDEBURG". The rescued are expected to arrive to-day in a German port. List of losses will be published as soon as possible.

Owing to thick weather and fog, support could not arrive in time, though summoned by radio.

*Germany*

SUBJECT EUROPEAN WAR - NAVAL BATTLE OF  
HELGOLAND, AUGUST 28, 1914.

From Z No. 336 Date September 14, 1914., 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

It is reported here that the light cruiser "COELN" met the English First Battle Cruiser Squadron in the mist and the fighting took place at from five hundred to six hundred meters. The "KOELN" sank in about six minutes and but one man was saved - a stoker.

Among those lost on the "COELN" was Rear Admiral MAAS, the Second Admiral of the Scouting Ships (Aufklärungsschiffe).

No details have been received about the "MAINZ", except that about one hundred of her personnel were saved when she was sunk.

*Germany*

**SUBJECT** EUROPEAN WAR - 1914. THE SITUATION  
~~AS EXPLAINED TO ME BY THE GERMAN NAVY DEPARTMENT~~  
 ON AUGUST 30, 1914.

From 3 No. 303 Date August 30, 1914., 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

The enlarged High Sea Fleet is at Wilhelmshaven with a number of destroyers flotillas, mine layers, mine sweepers, etc.

The Zeppelin's, aeroplanes, and scout cruisers have scoured the North Sea finding only a few small cruisers. The Zeppelins have been as far as Stavanger on the Norwegian coast. They believe the cordon of English ships to prevent commerce destroyers from leaving the North Sea is stretched across from the Orkneys to the Hebrides and from thence to the Norwegian coast. The main fleet has not been located and is supposed to be either in the North, or in one of the Scotch Firths.

The German light cruisers "STRASSBURG" and "STRALSUND" had actions day before yesterday off Yarmouth. The "STRASSBURG" claims to have sunk a submarine boat and the "STRALSUND" engaged a destroyer flotilla at long range and claims to have damaged two boats. The flotilla retired.

There is said to be a cordon of submarines, backed by destroyers from Yarmouth to the Dutch coast.

#### B A L T I C S E A.

The Russian Baltic fleet, as soon as war was declared, sought the safest harbor in the Gulf of Finland and thoroughly surrounded themselves with mines. Not a submarine, nor a destroyer, has been seen by the German forces since the war started and nor is commerce between Sweden, Denmark and Germany to be resumed.

The Germans were greatly surprised at the panic which occurred at Liebau, after the "AUGSBURG" shot it up a little. Liebau had been especially prepared by Russia as a base for destroyers and submarines to attack the German coast. However after a bombardment which only be called a reconnaissance, the Russians themselves burned the Navy Yard, dynamited the breakwater and closed the entrance by sinking ships in it. The same senseless performance went on at Abö, on the Finnish coast, which was not even attacked.

#### M E D I T E R R A N E A N.

After the bombardments of Philippeville and Bone, the "GOEREN" and "BRESLAU" coaled at Messina, watched from the straits by two British ships of the "INFLEXIBLE" type, and one "WARRIOR" (?). The German ships however escaped in the night and laid a course to make Constantinople. Surprise was expressed that the 16 destroyers at Malta did not come to help block the egress of the German ships. During the night they exchanged shots with an English light cruiser, said to be the "GLOUCESTER", and the "BRESLAU" was hit once with no serious damage. The "GOEREN" and her consort proceeded to Constantinople where they now are.

Of the various outlying cruisers and gunboats in America, Africa, etc., the Reichs-Marine-Amt have no late news, they therefore consider them as allright.

It is expected that Kiautschau can not be held by the German forces there, as there are practically no land defenses. It is expected to make what resistance it can against the Japanese Army which will be landed against it.

*Germany**Need not be returned. 31*

SUBJECT EUROPEAN WAR -1914. LOSS OF  
CRUISERS "ARIADNE", "MAINZ", "KOELN" and  
" V 187".

From Z No. 317 Date August 31, 1914., 19

Replying to O. N. I. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 19

A full account of this affair is not possible at the present time, but the following is the official account, as officially given out on the 30th of August 1914:-

" In the course of yesterday afternoon several modern English small cruisers and two English destroyer flotillas ( about 40 destroyers) made their appearance in the German Bay of the North Sea, to the North West of Helgoland in very thick weather. Several stubbornly fought individual fights ensued between them and our forces which were rather weak. The German small cruisers forced their way to the West and engaged thereby, on account of the thick weather, several large armored cruisers. S.M.S.S. "ARIADNE", after having been fired at by two battle cruisers of the "LION" Class at short range, sank after an honorable fight. The greatest part of the crew, about 250 heads, could be rescued; the torpedo boat " V 187" also, after having been fired at by a small cruiser and 10 destroyers, went down, firing to the last. The Chief of the Flotilla and Captain have found their death. A considerable part of the crew was rescued. The small cruisers "KOELN" and "MAINZ" are missing. According to a report published by Reuter from London, they also were sunk by superior forces. A part of their crews ( 9 officers and 81 men) seems to have been rescued by English ships. According to the same source the English ships were badly injured. "

The German Scouting Force had been going about the North Sea and in the direction of England without finding an enemy. They had become overbold. The British knowing this sent a force in thick weather to the vicinity of Helgoland. This British force consisted of destroyers, light cruisers, and battle cruisers. If the battle fleet was behind this screen is not known. The destroyers being chased by the German light cruisers retreated and in the thick weather, the German light cruisers ran suddenly into range of the British battle cruisers.

The Germans were not closely supported and were hopelessly outclassed.