

SUBMARINE SHIPS AND SEA MINES

Both Play an Important Part in European War.

It is rather interesting in these days of frequent submarine raids to reflect that when Fulton, the American inventor, first propounded his idea for an under water boat and experimented under the auspices of the British and French governments his plans were denounced as "revolting to every noble principle," both French and British admirals declaring that they wished to "fight like gentlemen and not to be drowned like rats."

The method of attack of a submarine is very simple. Seeing an enemy, she blows out the required number of air tanks and by means of her planes descends until the conning tower is just above water, from which the movements of the distant enemy are observed. Having approached within a distance judged to be safe from discovery, the submarine is submerged completely, her course being guided solely by means of the periscope, and at the chosen moment discharges her torpedo. At night the submarine is blind, and in bad light or rough sea she works with difficulty owing to the obscurity of her vision.

The submarine is still in a way an unknown quantity in international law. While the existing rules of international law provide that all passengers and crew on unarmed belligerent merchant vessels must be taken off before the ship can be sunk, this has been held to apply to war vessels which are able to care for passengers. The fact that a submarine may endanger itself by approaching a belligerent merchantman is a consideration which may necessitate new rules when the subject is taken up by future conferences.

In addition to the submarine ship, the submarine mine is playing an important part in the present European war and in the strategy of the fighting

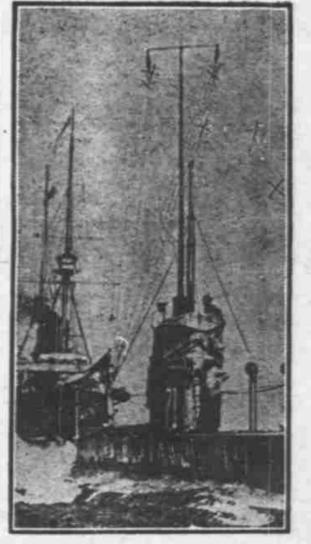


Photo by American Press Association. TOWER, PERISCOPE AND WIRELESS OF A SUBMARINE (BATTLESHIP AT LEFT).

game, particularly as it relates to the defense of a country on its seaboard or to the offense of a nation against an enemy's navy.

Mines, as they are placed in the sea and as they have been placed in great numbers in the North sea, are of three kinds—harbor defense mines, deep sea floating mines and moored contact mines.

Harbor defense mines are part of the armament of a country to keep the vessels of a hostile nation from entering a harbor to occupy a city. They are used to the best effect where the channel to a harbor is somewhat narrow. These mines consist of heavy charges of a high explosive placed in the channel. They are exploded by an electric current sent through a wire connecting them with the shore. The contact that detonates the mine is made from a fort on shore or other point of observation, and the explosive is discharged when the ship of an enemy is close to the hidden mine.

These mines are under the control of man, and unless through an accident or by mistake they could not injure the ships of a neutral power or of the power which controlled them.

The other kinds of mines are automatic and make no distinction between friend and foe. If the ship of a friendly power touches the mine it is the same as though the ship of a foe had touched it. If the proper contact is made the mine is discharged.

The deep sea floating mines are the easiest to place in position, and they are the most easily detected of any of the different classes of mines. As their name indicates, they float on the surface of the sea and can be seen by the vigilant lookout of a vessel in many instances and can be avoided or can be detonated from a distance without danger to the ship sighting them.

The moored mines are invisible from a ship and are the most dangerous to ordinary shipping. They are cast overboard from the mine laying vessel and consist of a globe of light shell which contains the explosive charge and the detonator.

The White Flag.

It is a great temptation to commanders in wartime to use the white flag as a trick to obtain breathing space when hard pressed by the enemy, and this is often done, although it is against the laws of war.

The old purpose of the white flag is to notify the enemy that their opponents wish to parley, and a commander has a perfect right to refuse such a request if he deems it necessary. Even if he consents he can request that the bearer of the flag of truce be blindfolded so that he may not secure information concerning the camp which he enters. In no circumstances must the white flag be shown to trick an opposing side into relaxing their attack, so that a retreat may be prepared or re-enforcements brought up for a fresh attack. In this connection a common use is for a harassed commander to request his enemy for the purpose of burying his dead. He then takes advantage of the truce by retreating with his troops under the cover of darkness.—London Tit-Bits.

Floating Docks.

A floating dock may be likened to a box with neither ends nor lid. It is built of steel throughout, the largest type having a length of 680 feet and a width of 144 feet, while the walls are 66 feet in height. The dock is first submerged by admitting water into the ballast tanks or pontoons forming the base of the structure. When it has been sunk to a sufficient depth to receive the vessel the latter is warped into its correct position on the keel blocks of the dock and is then made fast. Powerful pumps are set to work to eject water from the pontoons, causing the structure to rise gradually with its burden. To lift a battleship of the largest size 46,000 tons of water has to be pumped out of the pontoons. So perfectly, however, are these floating docks constructed that one man can control every movement from what is known as the valve house.—London Tit-Bits.

Spiral Nebulae.

It is now an established fact that the majority of the nebulae known to astronomers are spiral nebulae. Their study is very important, and in particular a knowledge of their spectra is capable of furnishing valuable information. The study of the spectra of nebulae is rendered very difficult by the small intrinsic brightness they possess. Nevertheless, some careful experiments made by Slipher on the nebula in Andromeda render it probable that the nebula has a radial velocity of about 186 miles a second, a result which is distinctly greater than the figures formerly obtained for other nebulae. If this nebula in Andromeda approaches the solar system with this velocity—11,100 miles a minute—it suggests that the new star which appeared near its nucleus in 1885 had been a dark star which was encountered.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Polish Peasant Girls.

Polish women have been known to fight on the battlefield and die in the cause of their country. And what seemed harder to some they have given up all their worldly goods in the same cause. Many have been exiled, but never has there been a murmur heard from these brave women, who are capable of any sacrifice. The Polish women have ever been noted for their physical charms, their hands and feet being, from an artistic point of view, absolutely perfect. In the field at harvest time far more women are to be seen than men, and the effect of their different colored dress makes an attractive picture. The skirts of their dresses are generally pinned up, leaving bright petticoats exposed to view.—London Express.

Train Times.

A passenger recently entered a railroad depot to take the 2:15 p. m. train. The clock in the waiting room was several minutes faster than the one in the office, and the passenger asked the porter which clock was correct. After scanning the clocks carefully the porter, with much satisfaction to himself, replied: "It don't make any difference which is right. The train goes at 2:15 anyhow."—Everybody's.

One Consolation.

"Beauty has vanished from earth," mourned Cholly Litebrane. "The girl I love has refused my hand and made me miserable."

"Well, you ought to think of somebody other than yourself," replied his unsympathetic friend. "The girl probably has made herself happy."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Rubbing It In.

He—I don't think much of the way you practice economy. She—Well, you have nothing on me. I don't think much of the way you don't make any money and force me to attempt something when I have no chance of success.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Tell Him No Fine Yarns.

"Men never brag to me about how much money they have."

"They don't. Who are you?"

"I'm a Bill collector."—Detroit Free Press.

Filling the Bill.

"I want to give a swell luncheon. What would you suggest as the first article on the menu?"

"Dried apples."—Baltimore American.

What concerneth every man is not whether he fail or succeed, but that he do his duty.—Jan MacLaren.

A Blunt Excuse.

There is a story of an English clergyman who had taken temporary duty for a friend and who had the ill luck to injure his false teeth during the week. The plate was sent to the dentist for repairs, a faithful assurance being given that it should be returned by Sunday's post, but the dentist or the post proved faithless.

With the assistance of the clerk the clergyman managed to stumble through the prayers, but felt it would be useless to attempt to preach. He therefore instructed the clerk to make some excuse for him and dismiss the congregation. But his feelings may be better imagined than described when, in the seclusion of the vestry, he overheard the clerk in impressive tones thus deliver the excuse:

"Parson is very sorry, but it is his misfortune to be obliged to wear a set of artful teeth. They busted last Wednesday, and he ain't got them back from London today, as he was promised. I've helped him all I could through the service, but I can't do more for him. Tisn't any use for him going up in the pulpit, for you wouldn't understand a word he said, so he thinks you all may as well go home."

Wagging the Ears.

You will rarely find that a man who can wag his ears suffers from deafness. The reason for this is very simple. Wagging one's ears exercises them just as much as walking exercises the muscles of the legs. A great deal of deafness is caused by the muscles of the ears becoming stiff and refusing to respond quickly to the sound waves. Quite a large proportion of children can move their ears, just as they can move the skin on their forehead up and down, but as they grow up they lose their power through want of practice. It is a mistake to let a child lose this power, for it may mean the difference between good and bad hearing in after years. Dr. M. Fernet, the famous Paris doctor, has even gone so far as to suggest that people should be trained to wag their ears, just as they are trained to exercise any other muscles of the body.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Illuminative.

"This meter," explained the gas company official, "measures the quantity of gas you use."

"And," asked the misanthrope who is present on all gladsome occasions, "where is the meter which measures what you charge for?"—Philadelphia Ledger.

Not Artistic Work.

Footlight—And was the performance artistic? Miss Sue Brette—No; the scenery and the leading lady were both badly painted.—Yonkers Statesman.

Too Much to Bear.

Friend—Why are you crying, Bobby? Bobby—Ma whipped me because my face was dirty and then washed it.—Judge.

By the street of By-and-by we arrive at the house of Never.—Cervantes.

The Hague Peace Tribunal.

The Hague peace tribunal was formed fifteen years ago.

"Effendi" in Turkish has its equivalent in the British "esquire."

Practically all cows used by Manilla dairymen have been imported from Australia and are under the inspection of the bureau of health.

Immigration through the port of New York for 1914 fell to the extent of 901,410 persons, or 45 per cent, as compared with 1913. Statistics show that the number of departing aliens was greater by 37,818 than in 1913.

The Jitney.

The impression seems to be growing that operating a jitney bus is not all velvet.—Detroit Free Press.

Dictionaries of the future will have to pay more attention to the word "jitney" than do the dictionaries of the present, which overlook it altogether.—Chicago News.

Until there was so much in the papers about "jitney" we of Detroit had not realized that all along we have had a jitney ferry, both to Belle Isle and to Windsor.—Detroit News.

Industrial Items.

In Malaga, Spain, shoemakers get 64 to 72 cents a day.

Factory inspection laws were established in Switzerland in 1877.

Illness among the workers annually involves a loss of \$750,000,000 in the United States.

The value of all the gold produced in the United States from 1792 to Jan. 1, 1914, is estimated by the United States geological survey at \$3,540,790,400 and the value of the silver at \$1,700,517,600.

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Don't Be a Tortoise.

The tortoise is a testudinate, terrestrial reptile. He is a half brother to the turtle, which so often gets into the soup. The tortoise's motto is "Take It Easy." Next to the sponge and the oyster, which require the hook to be moved at all, he is the slowest animal in the world. A Greek of the name of Aesop, who lived centuries ago, told of a race between the tortoise and the hare in which the tortoise got the trophy. The hare, according to Aesop, got so far in the lead that he took a nap, and, forgetting to wake up, the tortoise passed him. The truth of the matter is that by the time the tortoise had caught him the hare had died of old age. A tortoise lets the dear old world wag and waddles complacently on. You couldn't speed him up if you built a fire under him, for his shell is so thick that he wouldn't know he was being roasted. Because of his imperturbability and his utter deadness to impressions the tortoise lives to a great age. But, no matter how old or how big he grows, he never improves intellectually, and eventually he lands in a museum, to be viewed as a curiosity. Don't be a tortoise.—Maurice Switzer in Judge.

How Do You Do?

What is your normal attitude toward yourself? Much depends upon this. When you look at the great, wide world and then at yourself in your own little center of it, how does it impress you? That is to say, are you a constant source of surprise and wonderment to yourself, which causes you ever and anon to halt in your tracks, look back over the road you came and marvel that you were ever able to make it?

Or do you take yourself for granted and consider that it is the most natural thing in the world for you to be where you are and doing what you are?

Or have you been so excruciatingly busy trying to get somewhere that you have had no time to take these little mental invoices to discover just where you are and why and for how long?—Life.

Nelson and Villeneuve.

When Nelson fell at Trafalgar he was only forty-seven years old, and the French commander, Admiral de Villeneuve, was only forty-two. The latter was a brilliant sailor, who had already fought against Nelson, and he thoroughly realized what the English tactics were going to be on this occasion. Indeed, he held a meeting of the captains of the allied fleet and lucidly explained them. Nelson would not, he said, form line of battle parallel with the allied line. "He will seek to pierce our line, surround our rear and overpower with groups of his vessels as many of ours as he can cut off." Still, although prepared for this form of attack, Villeneuve failed to resist it, and he was taken prisoner, bitterly regretting that no shot had dealt him the same fate as Nelson.—London Chronicle.

How Words Change.

A century and a half ago "fun," a word of Irish origin, was considered "shockingly low." "Mob," too, was a word "no self respecting gentleman would use" till Pope boldly wrote "the mob of gentlemen who write with ease." Of "humbug" a writer in 1750 said: "I will venture to affirm that this 'humbug' is neither an English word nor a derivative from any other language. It is, indeed, a blackguard sound. It is a fine makeweight in conversation, and some great men deceive themselves so egregiously as to think they mean something by it."

A Desperate Charge.

"They charged like demons," said the retired colonel excitedly. "I never saw anything to touch it. The way they charged positively staggered me."

"Whom does he mean?" whispered the man who had just come in to his neighbor. "Is he talking about one of his old battles?"

"No," replied the other. "He's talking about the holiday he spent at the Swiss hotel."—Liverpool Mercury.

A Devotee.

She had a vast amount of money, but it had come to her quite recently. One day an acquaintance asked her if she were fond of art.

"Fond of art?" she exclaimed. "Well, I should say I was. If I am ever in a city where there's an artery I never fail to visit it."—Lippincott's.

Inevitable Displeasure.

"There is no use of trying to please everybody," said the ready made philosopher.

"But you don't make an effort of any kind."

"There you are! You blame me for being absolutely harmless!"—Washington Star.

One Brand.

"Mary," queried the teacher, "can you tell me what human nature is?"

"Yes, ma'am," was the reply. "It's people before they get into society."—Chicago News.

Obeying Orders.

"See America first!" didactically quoted the professor.

"I have already done so," replied J. Fuller Gloom. "I was born here."—Judge.

Different Opinions.

"I don't think a college education amounts to a great deal."

"Don't you? Well, you ought to foot my boy's bill and see."—Boston Record.

Away with dilly—it always injures those who are prepared.—Lucan.

Needed It.

Old Chief Singing Hound was a patriarchal Indian on one of the far western reservations. Tourists frequently visited the old man. He had the dignity of a king and a taciturn disposition that belied his name.

One day a party of eastern travelers hunted out the old man. Among them was a young woman who was togged out in the latest style. Her neck was bare, as were her arms. Her garments—what there were of them—were skimpy cut.

She was fascinated by the chief. Fixing her large, calflike eyes upon him, she stared and stared exactly as though he were a griffin or a unicorn. The chief began to show symptoms of being excessively bored. He eyed the young woman from head to foot in the chilling manner, but it did not do a particle of good.

Finally the young woman spoke.

"What a perfectly lovely blanket!" she exclaimed. "I wish I had it!" She referred to the blanket which enwrapped the chief.

Without a word he removed it and tossed it at her feet. He gave her—and her costume—a parting glance.

"You take um," he grunted. "You need um most!"

And he stalked away.—Pittsburgh Press.

Frederick's War on Coffee.

In a manifesto issued by Frederick the Great in 1779 the mighty monarch deplored "the increased consumption of coffee by my subjects and the amount of money that goes out of the country in consequence. Everybody is using coffee. This must no longer be. My subjects must drink beer. His majesty was brought up on beer, and so were his ancestors. Innumerable battles have been fought and won by soldiers nourished on beer, and the king does not believe that coffee drinking soldiers can be depended upon to endure hardships or to conquer his enemies should another war occur." Coffee roasting was made a government monopoly, and a prohibitive price was charged for the berry. "Coffee smelters" were appointed all over Prussia to check illicit roasting. Coffee was therefore ousted from popular favor.

Throwing Dirty Water.

An English legal periodical recently published an inquiry sent to it by a lawyer as to the origin of a queer belief encountered by him—that it is no offense to throw water on a person, provided the water be dirty. A client of his, summoned for assault, had assured him that he had a sufficient defense, because he had taken the precaution of putting a handful of dirt in the water before throwing it. Another correspondent suggested as the solution the ancient practice, before the days of drains and sewers, of throwing waste water into the street. When this practice was prevalent doubtless the fact that the water was dirty instead of clean was a circumstance tending to show that the wetting of the unfortunate passerby was a misadventure rather than by design.

Bridal Chamber Silver.

Few pieces of equal extent in mother earth ever produced as much wealth in ore as the famous "bridal chamber" in the Lake Valley silver mines in southern New Mexico. It yielded over \$3,000,000, the silver ore being found twenty feet underground and was taken from a space no larger than a good sized room. One piece of ore weighed 51,000 pounds and returned smelter values of over \$82,000. In another nearby shaft fifty feet in depth \$116,000 worth of ore of the same character was hoisted with a hand windlass in eight hours.—Argonaut.

First to Strike Oil.

The first man to "strike oil" in the United States was E. L. Drake, a conductor on the New Haven railroad. Employed at Oil Creek, Pa., to drill a well for oil, he accomplished his task on Aug. 27, 1859, and his well went down into history as the first ever drilled for oil in this country.—New York American.

Reformed.

"Pa, Jimmy Green, the toughest fighter in our gang, has reformed. He says it's wrong to fight."

"Do you believe him?"

"I would but for one thing."

"What's that?"

"He never talked that way until he broke his arm."—Detroit Free Press.

Their Five Heavens.

According to the Ptolemaic system of astronomy, there were five heavens, or firmaments, the last of which was the seat of the "pure elemental fire," and the seat of deity. This fifth or highest heaven was called the empyrean, from the Greek "en-fui," which means "in fire."

Seeking the Lost.

"What is the poet gabbling about?"

"His lost Lenora."

"He'd better put an ad in the lost column. By the way, what is a lenore?"—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Poor Friends.

When one loses one's reputation it is never necessary to advertise it in the want columns. One's friends will advertise it for one as widely as possible.—Florida Times-Union.

Safety First.

"Do you believe in being perfectly frank with your friends?"

"Only with those that are smaller than I am."—Houston Post.

It is no small commendation to manage a little well. He is a good waggoner that can turn in a little room.—Bishop Hall.

Fixing Up an Election.

A curious incident once occurred at Patton at an election for parliament. Sir Mark Wood, who had been one of its members for several years, had as his colleague in the parliament of 1812 Sir William Congreve, the inventor of the famous "Congreve rocket." The latter resigned in 1816, and the baronet wished his own son to fill the vacancy. There were only three voters in the constituency—Sir Mark, his son and his butler, named Jennings—but as the son was away and the butler had quarreled with his master an opportunity was afforded for a singular revenge. Jennings refused to second Sir Mark's nomination of his son and proposed himself, and a deadlock was averted only by Sir Mark coming to terms with the refractory butler, whose nomination he seconded in order to induce him to act as a seconder to his son. Matters being thus put formally in train, Sir Mark arranged with Jennings that the former's vote should be alone given, and the final state of the poll at Patton's only known contest stood thus: Wood (Tory); Jennings (Whig); 0.—Westminster Gazette.

Snow Ice Cream.

Snow ice cream—what a joy it used to be to the child heart! Mother used to make it when she had been importuned to "dis let us have one more cupful, mom." The youth of today, perhaps, does not need that joy, with everything so handy for buying "store" ice cream. But never can such makeshift take away the memory of the earlier dish. It was so easy to make too. Nature kindly furnished the foundation, and all that was necessary was to add sugar and milk. When a new fall of snow came the children watched anxiously until it became deep enough to scoop up cupfuls of the "crystals." Then it was carried to mother and milk poured in and more snow added, and then more milk poured in and more snow added, until there was a full cupful. Sugar was added until the taste was just right and the mixture was placed out of doors until it had become a half frozen mass, and there was the ice cream!—Indianapolis News.

Nicked Arteries.

A "nick" in an artery is sometimes more dangerous than its complete severing, for the coats of arteries are formed of muscular tissue, which contracts, and a slight cut at once expands into a round or oval hole, through which the hemorrhage continues unless the artery be tied. When an artery is completely severed the cut ends tend to turn in and close the tube. In the case of a small artery this closing sometimes needs no assistance. In the case of a larger artery the surgeon ties it at once and thus closes it for good. The New York Medical Journal reports two cases at Lincoln hospital in which hemorrhages broke out over and over again for several weeks in arteries that had only just been nicked and that were finally healed by being tied just as if they had been severed.

A Question of Numbers.

Herbert Spencer did not agree with the scientists who favored the metric system. He said it is artificial and unsatisfactory, ten being divisible by only two numbers—two and five—and in one case the result is fifths, which are practically useless in the everyday life of the people. The decimal system is similarly objectionable, he contended, because it has an imperfect fourth and a more imperfect third, both of which are desirable in ordinary transactions. He regarded twelve as one of the most favorable numbers, as it is easily divisible into groups of units for popular use.

Tracing It Back.

"Inquirer" says: "I am making a collection of the best examples of modern slang. What does 'double cross' mean?"

Glad to oblige you. The slang you mention is modern, but the source is classical.

Caesar crossed the Rubicon. Then he recrossed it. This is called "double crossing the Rubic."

Shortly afterward the fighting began.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

His Proposal.

"Can you wash clothes?" asked the timid young lover.

"What's that?" asked the surprised maiden.

"Can you wash dishes?"

"Yes, I thought this was a proposal of marriage? What do you run, anyway—a laundry or a restaurant?"—Yonkers Statesman.

Easier Employment.

"I understand," said the letter carrier, "that some of those ancients did all their writing on rocks and bricks."

"Yes," replied the professor.

"Well, these times have their disadvantages. But I'd rather be a letter carrier now than then."—Washington Star.

It Hit Him.

"Yes," observed the egg, "my theatrical venture was a great success. I was cast for the heavy villain and made a tremendous hit."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The Retort Fatherly.

"I want to marry your daughter. I love her," said the suitor.

"What makes you think I don't?" replied her dad.—Philadelphia Ledger.

No Trifles.

Gertie—I wish to show you that I don't stand on trifles.—Helen (glancing at her feet)—No, dear; I see you don't.—London Telegraph.

It is no small commendation to manage a little well. He is a good waggoner that can turn in a little room.—Bishop Hall.