

Thirty Real American Stories

“OUR NAVY IN the GREAT WAR”

First
Installment
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April
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By JOSEPHUS DANIELS, Retiring Secretary of American War Navy

Tentative list of subjects of articles revealing hitherto unknown details of our Navy in the great war—pen portraits of noted personages and word pictures of momentous conferences of the war—what was said—by whom—how decisions were reached.

- 1—The dramatic story of “Mr. S. W. Davidson,” revealing why and how Admiral Sims was sent to England under this assumed name and in civilian clothes BEFORE WE DECLARED WAR. Sending the fleet SECRETLY to Guanacayabo. The famous six-line telegram that started the war.
- 2—Taking the Little Nursery Rhymes Away to War. The amazing story of how nursery rhymes were used as code signals. Mother Goose rhymes used to baffle German submarines. Secrets that may now be told. The thrilling story of Submarine Chaser 28 lost for a month in the Atlantic—avoided capture and navigated under sails made of bed clothes to the Azores and safety.
- 3—Secrets of Communication—How we talked to General Pershing on the battlefields of France, to Mr. Lloyd George in Downing street, and with M. Clemenceau in the Quai d’Orsay—how these men and the commander of every vessel were accessible from a certain room in Washington.
- 4—German secrets revealed by Americans who solved the most puzzling ciphers the Germans could devise. Decoding code messages by machine. Battle of wits between German and American code experts.
- 5—Intimate stories of the mental battles—conflicts of wills that were fought in the council chambers at Washington—what was said and by whom—who proposed the finally accepted solutions of different problems.
- 6—The Thrilling Story of a Plain American Gob Who Saved His Ship and the Lives of His Comrades in a Battle with a Submarine—who he was and what he did—No Roman Centurion ever showed greater self-sacrifice or devotion to duty.
- 7—The Valkyrie of the Sea That Led German Submarines to Their Everlasting Valhalla. The devices which eliminated the submarines as a decisive factor in the war—a tribute to the inventive genius of the American people—President Wilson’s suggestion: “Why not shut the hornets in their nest?”
- 8—In a critical situation full of possible disaster for the Allied Arms, the U. S. Navy built a pipe-line across Scotland to supply the British Fleet with oil—the German submarine drive on tank ships—what might have happened had the Germans known the true situation.
- 9—The Strange Story of the Porcupine Boat and the Cotton Batten Transport. Fantastic schemes to win the war.
- 10—The absorbing story of the “little flagship” on the Bosphorus—the United States Gunboat that lived in Turkey throughout the war.
- 11—Revealing How the Long-Range Bombardment of Paris Ceased and the Big German “72-mile” Gun Was Hastily Withdrawn When Big American Naval Guns Started for Compiegne. These were the largest guns that were ever put on railway or other mobile mounts. “Four Bells and a Jingle,” the American Navy land-fighting in France. History records the surrender of a Spanish fleet to a regiment of cavalry, but here we see the Navy on the highways to Paris.
- 12—Listening in on Nauen, the big German wireless station near Berlin—how we did it and what we heard.
- 13—Catching German Messages Announcing Sinking of the Leviathan. In reality the Germans sunk the Justicia, a much smaller vessel than the Leviathan—Germans eager for anything to boost morale of the German people and maintain their faith in the submarine blockades—amusing and



JOSEPHUS DANIELS.

- 14—Sending Messages Unrelayed Around the World—the amazing story of the world-circling wireless station built by the United States in France.
- 15—How We Safeguarded Supremely Important Plans—guarding against German spies—some things we never trusted to paper—the mysterious disappearance of the “Black Plan” for war with Germany.
- 16—Great Personalities of the War—my impressions and incidents of conferences with Joffre, Lloyd George, Clemenceau, Balfour, Admiral Jellicoe, Beatty, King George and the Prince of Wales, Lord Northcliffe and Lord Reading—how Prince Udine caught the measles.
- 17—A surprise for Count von Luxburg—U. S. Naval Agent actually one of the speakers at farewell German banquet to him in Buenos Aires—Luxburg never knew—capture and deciphering of the Luxburg “Spurlos Versenkt” message—glimpses of the workings of our secret service—von Bernstorff’s amazement and confusion at the publication of the Zimmerman note and his surprise that the Americans got it.
- 18—Tracking Submarines—Trailing the hornets from the time they left their nests—depth bomb tactics—souvenirs containing 600 pounds of TNT and quick trips to “Davy Jones’ Locker.”
- 19—That famous Fourth of July Report—the voyage of the first transport—exact text of the message from Gleaves and Sims regarding submarine attacks on first convoy.
- 20—“NOTS” Naval Overseas Transportation Service—exciting incidents of one of the biggest and least-known activities of the war.
- 21—“I Didn’t Lose My Leg; I Gave it.” This answer of a United States Marine deserves to live in history alongside Nathan Hale’s last words—thrilling incidents, hitherto unknown, of Marines fighting in France.
- 22—Inside Facts Regarding the Biggest Mine Operation in the World’s History—how we put the North Sea Mine barrage in operation after the British declared it could not be done.
- 23—Great Deeds of the Navy—transporting 2,000,000 soldiers. “The Biggest Transportation Job in History.” Joffre’s estimate that 400,000 to 500,000 men would be all that America could be expected to transport to Europe—facts hitherto unknown regarding troop transportation and exactly what parts British, French and United States navies played.
- 24—The Strange Story of Admiral Kolchak.
- 25—Why I Divided the Fleet—Admiral Mahan—The Panama Canal—The Pacific Quite as Important as the Atlantic.
- 26—President Wilson as a Strategist—some unknown facts regarding President Wilson’s influence on momentous military decisions.
- 27—Are Airy Navies to Supplant Navies on and Under the Sea? Capital Ships and what I think of them—ships that the Navy is building.
- 28—Exploits of the Flying Navy—how the naval air force was built up and what it did in Europe.
- 29—One Crowded Hour—the most exciting moment of my administration of the Navy.
- 30—Things I Didn’t Dare Say Until Now.

There are thirty of these amazing stories written by a man who was in on the “know” of every move made by our Navy through the duration of the world war. Every story filled with descriptions of the wonderful accomplishments of our boys. These stories to appear daily in the

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