

## 'LOSS' OF NAVAL PLAN IS GREAT WAR MYSTERY

Patriot Carried Only Copy of  
Secret Document to Grave,  
Is Theory.

'TEUTONS DID NOT GET IT'

The war plan that was lost—  
"The secret document," dealing  
with naval tactics against Germany  
in Atlantic waters—Did Germany  
steal our secrets or were they  
guessers?—Probable solution of mys-  
tery.

By JOSEPHUS DANIELS.  
Former Secretary of Navy—1913-21.  
ARTICLE 23.

What became of the lost Black  
plan is still a mystery. Made out  
by the general board, guarded with  
the greatest care, handled by the proper  
authorities, it was carried into effect  
and then it vanished utterly.

The discovery that one of our se-  
cret naval plans was missing came  
when it was too late to have any ef-  
fect on the situation. But that did  
not prevent the newspapers making  
the most of the sensation, especially  
in such as for political reasons, had it  
in for the Navy Department.

They would never have heard it was  
missing, nor would we have known it  
was missing, had it not been for the  
purpose of proving certain clamorous  
critics that we had not gone to war with-  
out plans. Long ago it had served its  
purpose as a plan, and, as we supposed,  
had been filed away in some of the  
proper documents for purposes of record.  
But there were wrong. The plan had  
not been filed away, nor could any trace  
of it be found. To this day it has not  
been found.

And it was an important plan at the  
time it was used. It was a plan of vital  
importance.

DEFINITION OF  
'BLACK PLAN.'

The Navy for many years has had a  
set of plans to cover possible situations  
which might develop in the Atlantic, the  
Pacific, the Caribbean Sea and other open  
waters. These plans originated with the  
general board, of which Admiral Dewey  
was chairman until his death in January,  
1917, and were kept up-to-date by fre-  
quent revision.

The plan dealing with possible hostilities  
in the Atlantic was known as the  
'Black Plan.' In February, 1917, in its  
revised and up-to-the-minute form, it  
dealt, of course, with the probability of  
war with Germany.

On Feb. 4, the day after Bernstein was  
dismissed, the general board had recom-  
mended in detail the principal steps to  
be taken in case of war with the central  
powers—mobilization of the fleet, naval  
districts and auxiliary vessels; large in-  
crease of navy and marine corps personnel;  
nets and mines to guard ports and home  
waters against submarines, arming  
of merchant ships, and other measures,  
and, "most important, arrange, as soon  
as possible, plans of cooperation with the  
navies of the allies for the joint  
protection of trans-Atlantic commerce  
and for offensive naval operations against  
the common enemy."

FRAMING STRATEGY  
AND WAR POLICY.

The general war plan was compre-  
hensive; special recommendations had  
been made as to the various steps we  
should take. But I wanted also a definite  
statement as to the strategy and general  
policy we should pursue upon the  
declaration of war. These studies are  
called "problems," and on Feb. 10 I ad-  
dressed this letter to the general board:

Feb. 10, 1917.  
To: The General Board,  
Subject: Solution of Problem.  
1. The department desires the general  
board to consider the following  
problem and submit its solution as  
soon as practicable:

PROBLEM.  
General Situation—Conditions as at  
present exist that war with Ger-  
many is declared. The general board  
is to consider the following problem  
and submit its solution as soon as  
practicable:

Required—Naval estimate of the  
situation.  
First, as to the grand strategy de-  
manded by the situation.  
Second, as to disposition of battle-  
ship force.

Third, as to the method of assist-  
ing in maintaining communications  
with Europe, including scheme for  
cooperation with allies.

Fourth, as to the methods of driv-  
ing submarines from the sea.

Assume—Mobilization of all naval  
vessels and possibility of mobilizing  
merchant vessels as required.

JOSEPHUS DANIELS.

The board made a careful study of the  
whole situation, and a week later made a  
report covering all the matters set forth,  
and sent it to me, with the following  
note of transmittal:  
DANIELS ADVISED.

GENERAL BOARD, NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Washington, Feb. 17, 1917.

To: Secretary of the Navy.

Subject: Solution of Problem, Black.

Reference: (a) Navy Department  
Confidential Letter of Feb. 10, 1917.

1. In accordance with reference (a)

(the general board submits herewith

problem and solution based upon the

general and special situations de-

scribed in the Navy Department's

instructions.

CHARLES J. BADGER.

Such care was taken to keep this docu-

ment from anyone except the secretary

and the office of the secretary that

even the general board retained no du-

plicate of it. After being submitted to

me for approval, it was turned over to

the chief of naval operations; all plans

that had been approved were in their

possession. They were familiar with their

provisions and drafted the necessary or-

ders for carrying them into effect. But

plans were so carefully safeguarded that

only those directly concerned were al-

lowed to see them.

And yet, in spite of all our precau-

tions, the document containing the gen-

eral board's solution (see page five).

(Continued on Page Five).

WEATHER

Forecast for Indianapolis and vicinity

for the twenty-four hours ending 7 p. m.

May 8: Partly cloudy tonight, becoming

unsettled with showers Sunday; moderate

temperature.

HOURLY TEMPERATURE.

6 a. m. 52

9 a. m. 53

12 m. 54

3 p. m. 55

6 p. m. 56

9 p. m. 57

11 a. m. 58

11 p. m. 59

12 m. 60

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# Indiana Daily Times

## CITY GAS RATE HIKE TO 90 CENTS

### J. McNamara Passes Out of San Quentin Tuesday

Convicted Dynamiter Plans to Start Life  
Anew—May Resume Union Work.

SAN QUENTIN PENITENTIARY,  
Cal., May 7.—On Tuesday, May 10, John  
McNamara, convicted of a felony in con-  
nection with the dynamiting of the Los  
Angeles Times on Oct. 1, 1910, will check  
out through the great doors of the Los  
Angeles prison for the last time. On that  
day his sentence will be completed.

"The first thing I'll do when I get out  
of here will be to go to San Francisco,  
see my friends and make arrangements  
to go to Ohio to visit the various mem-  
bers of my family who live in Cleveland  
and Cincinnati," he stated in an exclu-  
sive interview today.

"Then comes the problem of readjust-  
ment after being out of the world for  
ten years.

WOULD CONTINUE  
UNION ACTIVITY.

"At the time of my trial I was inter-  
national secretary of the Bridge and  
Structural Iron Workers' Union. I am  
still a member of the union and in good  
standing.

"I will continue with that work  
if I can, though that is neces-  
sarily dependent on what conditions are  
as I find them on my release.

"I have managed to keep more or less  
abreast of the times during my imprison-  
ment, but I fear I won't know how to  
act when I step off the ferry in San  
Francisco.

"Though I have been out of the world  
for ten years I think I'm still a man  
capable of taking care of myself."

There was a pause.  
"And will you be glad to get out?" he  
was asked.

"That's what has been keeping me  
alive, thinking of the day when I would  
again become a free man, able to go my  
own way," the man in prison gray replied.  
"One hears so much—and so little—of  
what is going on outside that after an  
active life, a prison term is almost an  
intellectual death," he added.

"THIRTEEN KEYNOTE  
OF WORLD REPAIRING."

"We hear so much now of wars and  
rumors of wars that it is almost appeal-  
ing to think of facing the age old conflict  
of man and his brother.

"With labor troubles paramount in this  
country, disputes tearing Europe, strife  
is the keynote of the world repairing."

Originally sentenced to a fifteen-year  
term, the board of prison directors have  
ordered McNamara released after serv-  
ing ten years, part in San Quentin and  
a few months in the county jail in Los  
Angeles. Good behavior and strict com-  
pliance with all rules earned the respite.

His brother, James McNamara, was sen-  
tenced to life imprisonment for his con-  
nection with the same case. It is possible  
that he may be paroled at some future  
date.

Union labor leaders in San Francisco  
who know McNamara are preparing a  
welcome for him on the day he is re-  
leased.

JOE CANNON, 85  
YEARS 'YOUNG,' IS  
'CELEBRATING' IT

Forgetful of Number Stogies  
He Has Smoked in Veteran  
Service.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—Uncle "Joe"  
Cannon holder of all "marathon" records  
for congressional service, is 85 years old  
today. He is the oldest member of Con-  
gress, both in years and point of  
service.

The veteran legislator celebrated his  
birthday by working with the House ap-  
propriations committee on the deficiency  
bill. Although the House was not in  
session, scores of friends called at his  
office to extend congratulations.

"Well, the calendar says I am 85, but  
you will have to subtract a good many  
years if you want to know how I feel,"  
he said, as he puffed one of his famous  
black stogies.

"I can still show some of these new  
members a few tricks."

One of his birthday presents was a  
box of the famous stogies.

"How many stogies have you smoked?"  
he was asked.

"Well, the figure probably would re-  
semble some of these appropriations we  
have been passing recently," he re-  
plied, as he pulled another one from his  
pocket.

"Got a match?"

DISARMAMENT  
MOVE PROBABLE

U. S., With Representatives in Po-  
sition to Act.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—President  
Harding, having accepted the invitation  
to put representatives on the allied su-  
preme council ambassadors' conference  
and reparations commission was in a po-  
sition today to inaugurate a disarmament  
movement among the powers.

It is believed that Harding is consid-  
ering a tentative plan for starting such  
a movement through Ambassador George  
Harvey, who will sit with the allied su-  
preme council. The other American rep-  
resentative will be Ambassador Herrick  
at Paris, who will sit with the ambassa-  
dors' conference, and Roland W. Boyden,  
who will attend meetings of the  
reparations commission.

The most important immediate tasks  
confronting the American representatives are:

1. Settlement of the reparations ques-  
tion without prostrating Germany eco-  
nomically.

2. Securing recognition of American  
rights in disposition of former enemy  
territories, such as the island of Yap  
and the Mesopotamian oil fields.

3. The German naval operations that  
even the general board retained no du-  
plicate of it. After being submitted to  
me for approval, it was turned over to  
the chief of naval operations; all plans  
that had been approved were in their  
possession. They were familiar with their  
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