

GERMANY'S SPY SYSTEM

How the Hun Sought to Dominate the World Through Its Secret Agents

Churches, Universities, Armies and All Classes Ensnared by System—Tools of Kaiser, Well Paid at First, Are Mercilessly Sacrificed When of No Use to Him.

FIRST INSTALMENT.

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By HERMAN BERNSTEIN.

IN the Willy-Nicky correspondence, which I published last year the character of Kaiser Wilhelm II. was revealed throughout the world as that of a hypocrite and intriguer, who talked of peace and of God while plotting against the peace of the world, advancing his personal ambitions as Prussian War Lord by mesmerizing the feeble minded Tsar, Nicholas II. He threatened him, bullied him, flattered him; he counselled him how to beat Japan during the Russo-Japanese War and taught him how to save his monarchy by deceiving the Russian people.

Former Ambassador Gerard exposed the Kaiser and the system of Wilhelmism effectively. He disclosed his whims and tactics during the great war. He pictured and analyzed Kaiserism as it really is, for he had both the opportunity and the ability to see it at close range in the course of the first years of the war.

During my recent visit to Russia I familiarized myself with the materials of the counter intelligence department and particularly with the documents of the military prosecutor, A. S. Reznow, concerning German espionage in Russia and elsewhere.

A study of these documents makes it clear beyond the shadow of a doubt that Kaiser Wilhelm has been scheming for years to dominate the world, to transform it into one great Prussia, to reduce all other Powers to a state of servility. He seems to have been moved by a peculiar passion to rule mankind as a moral savage, as a religious fanatic, covering the nakedness of his soul with the gloss of a civilization that is founded upon his Krupp munitions works.

Started Spy System in Russia. While the Kaiser was sending intimate messages to the Tsar, pledging him his devotion and friendship, he established in Russia an organization of espionage that worked hand in hand with the German Foreign Office, whose purpose it was to wreck Russia, to wreck her as a great Power in the event she failed to submit to the dictation of Potsdam and then to make use of her helplessness to further the Kaiser's dream of Pan-Germanism.

German espionage in Russia, as revealed during the war, was not confined to military affairs, to the unearthing of secrets which could prove of value in connection with strategic problems of this war. German espionage there was concerned with far greater problems. Its tasks had been elaborated not only by the German Staff but by the Department for Foreign Affairs.

The entire foreign policy of the German government was based upon the work and reports of the German spies in various countries, and that is why it is difficult to say where the work of the German spies ceases and where that of German spies commences. German secret agents were called upon to fulfill the orders of the military staff while at the same time carrying out important instructions for the diplomatic department. Many of the German spies were located in the offices and apartments of the German diplomats and worked together with them.

Many of the German diplomats directed the espionage system in foreign countries and were really responsible for numerous crimes committed there for the sake of the greater Germany which Wilhelm II. had conceived.

Regarded Honor as Prejudice. The code of German morality in this direction unfortunately became known only after the outbreak of this war. Now the whole world knows that German diplomats and German military men regarded international honor as nothing but an absurd prejudice. It was convenient for them as long as it served as a screen for the unscrupulous machinations of German greed and ambition. The Kaiser himself has taken an active interest in German espionage and occasionally directed the work of important secret agents at critical moments.

by the German government indicates this foreign policy of the Kaiser. According to the German law concerning double allegiance of German subjects, every German is obliged to remain faithful and loyal to Germany no matter where the German subject may be, no matter what post the German subject may occupy in his new homeland.

In 1914 Kaiser Wilhelm II. embodied the secret ambitions of the Hohenzollerns and the Pan-Germans in a statement which he wrote for an album de luxe dedicated to the glorification of Germany's greatness.

The translation of the Kaiser's amazing statement is as follows:—
"Wherever a German in the faithful fulfillment of his duty lies buried, having fallen for his fatherland, and wherever the German eagle has planted its claws in the soil—such land is German and will remain German."

Carried away by dreams of "fortifying and spreading the German power throughout the world," the Kaiser realized that without a terrible war against the great Powers that stood in the way of his wild dreams he could not bring about the universal hegemony of Germany. Therefore he commenced to prepare for this war long ago, drawing Austria into his snares. He prepared for it secretly, energetically and systematically. The Kaiser's inscription in the album confirms the secret German reports of 1913 which were made public by the French government, concerning the strengthening of the German army, the course of Germany's foreign policy and the preparation of the German people for the coming war.

The Secret German Report. That secret report read, in part, as follows:—
"Our forefathers made the greatest sacrifices in 1813. It is our sacred duty to sharpen the sword which was placed in our hands and keep it ready for our defence as well as for our attack against our enemy. It is necessary to spread the idea among our people that our military preparations are an answer to the military measures and the politics of France."

"We must get our people accustomed to the thought that an offensive war is necessary to crush the provocation of our enemy. We must act cautiously in order not to arouse any suspicions and to avoid a crisis which may injure our economic structure. We must conduct our affairs so that under the impression of intensified sacrifices and the strained political situation the solution shall be regarded as a liberation, because after the war there will come years of peace and prosperity, as after the war of 1870."

"We must prepare ourselves for the war also from the financial viewpoint, which will require much work. We must not arouse the suspicions of our financiers, but of course we cannot conceal everything from them."
"The organization of disorders in various countries must be carefully prepared by our political agents and must be financed. Disorders should break out suddenly, simultaneously with the cessation of railway communications, and they should have a leader in religious and political circles."

"We must be strong at all costs in order to destroy our enemies in the east and the west with a mighty stroke. But in the coming European war it is essential also that the secondary Powers shall either serve our interests or be subjugated. Under certain conditions their armies and their fortresses could be quickly conquered or neutralized. This may happen with Belgium and Holland in order to prevent our enemies in the west from seizing control of the territory which could serve as a base for their operations."

Pan-Germany in Pledge. "To return to Germany that which at one time was hers is our national duty." To accomplish this Kaiser Wilhelm and his militaristic clique organized a net of political, economic and so-called cultural organizations abroad a number of years ago. The diplomats and the German spies worked incessantly in every country which the Kaiser regarded within the sphere of Pan-German operations.

The German General Staff and the Foreign Office demanded of their secret agents information on a great variety of subjects in foreign lands. The German spies were ordered to report concerning the condition of the army, finances and the industries, the internal and foreign policies of Russia and her allies. They were instructed to pay special attention to social unrest and labor disorders. The scope of the work of the German spies was very far reaching. The scheme of German espionage is based upon gathering important as well as apparently unimportant information, which is carefully examined in Berlin. The reports of the German spies are afterward verified by other secret agents.

From the materials I have examined in

Russia I saw that in 1906, at the time of the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a large number of German spies were sent into Russia for the purpose of gathering information regarding the feeling of the Russian people toward Austria's step. They travelled extensively in the trains, they talked to Russians in restaurants and hotels, and their instructions were to report everything that might have any bearing on war. Some of the agents, according to Russian officials, telegraphed to Berlin daily in code whatever they considered of importance.

Special Subjects of Spy Inquiry. Here are several subjects the German spies in Russia were instructed to investigate:—

1. The morale of the army. Instances of violation of discipline. The success of revolutionary propaganda in the army. The degree of confidence of the

man. He knew exactly how to act, where to get his provisions, where to make contributions.

German Spies Active in Every City. This was true of almost every city in Russia that the Germans entered. They had Germans in all these places working for the Kaiser for years before the war.

From correspondence found on German soldiers, killed or wounded near Warsaw, it is evident that the Germans not only knew all they wanted to know about the fortifications and official buildings in the city, but they even divided Warsaw into districts before entering it. The German General Staff had given specific instructions to what parts of the city troops were to be stationed. They indicated the houses which were to be occupied by the General Staff and by the officers. The Germans had so arranged matters that each of the officers could drive to his home in

the engineer, Kurmasher, a Riga German, head of the Riga Fire Department, and two "volunteers" were in the basement sending radio messages to the German staff about the movements of the Russian troops. They were all caught at the apparatus with a radio telegram in their hands. There were hundreds of such factories, shops or stores scattered throughout Russia.

The German General Staff instructed its secret agents in foreign countries to prepare platforms for airplanes, reservoirs for Zeppelins and even to build fortresses. In the Baltic provinces these instructions were carried out by German engineers. In fact, several German fortresses were erected in Russia by German agents.

"This is not a fairy tale, not a myth, but the bitter truth," reads an official Russian document. "Our soldiers convinced themselves of this fact when they were attacked from such fortresses about five versts from Viadislavov. It took the Russian army five days to capture these German fortifications on Russian territory."
It was discovered that these fortifications had been constructed by Germans who had become Russian subjects and who thus contrived to check the progress of the Russian armies on their way to Prussia.

Neither Russia nor the Allies suspected how far reaching the scope of German espionage was because they did not realize that pan-Germanism was the force behind the system of German espionage.

Spies From Every Sphere of Society. To carry out its schemes of conquest, to make the world safe for Prussia, the Kaiser's government has for many years elaborated its system of espionage everywhere and has drawn its spies and secret agents from every sphere of society. It has ensnared a multitude of men and women of high and low social standing to aid the cause of Pan-Germanism. It stretched out its claws to the church and the universities, the armies and the navies, the schools, the shops and the farmhouses.

In Russia the provinces adjoining German and Austrian territories were covered with an enormous network of spies and provocateurs long before the outbreak of the war. Every city and town, every village and hamlet, in those provinces harbored a branch of the Kaiser's secret organization. Thus he knew the military, social, economic and political condition of Russia better than the Russian statesmen themselves knew it.

Russians Studied Spy System. The Russian Military Prosecutor, who made a profound study of German espionage, declared that in 1911, when certain Russian regiments situated in the Polish provinces were to be transferred, German spies communicated this information to Berlin before the orders had actually been given by the higher authorities.

A letter sent by a German officer to one of the spies was intercepted. It read as follows:—
"Please come to see me as soon as possible. I have a great deal of work for you. We will need about a hundred men for the task. Come for money without delay."

Though all this was known at the time to the Russian authorities, for some reason they paid no attention to the rapidly growing German organization in Russia. Even representatives of the army occupying posts of great importance minimized the significance of German espionage. The official organ of the War Department, the Ruskij Invalid, reprimanded the Military Prosecutor who exposed the intrigues of the Kaiser's representatives in Russia, saying that he was "cultivating dangerous yellow rumors and legends about German spies."

Hun Espionage Grew Undisturbed. Thus, German espionage was permitted to grow and develop and take root in Russia long before the war. The fruits of the activities of the organization blossomed forth and poisoned Russia. Germany knew the weaknesses of Russia better than the Russian patriots knew them, and Germany profited by this knowledge. The culmination of German espionage came through Bolshevism at Brest-Litovsk, leading to the dismemberment of Russia.

Germany also tried to spread its network of espionage over England, France, Belgium and the United States long before the outbreak of the war.

Winston Churchill declared in a speech at Liverpool in 1914 as follows:—
"Ever since I have assumed the post of First Lord of the Admiralty I have seen daily evidences of the most energetic German espionage in our country. An enormous number of secret German agents have worked year in and year out endeavoring to secure all possible information concerning the British fleet and its organization. But that is not all. Aside from the professional spies, every insignificant little German lieutenant tried to gain the good graces of his government by going to England for his vacation and reporting his observations in our peaceful and peace loving country."

France in Particular a Victim. France suffered greatly also from the spiderlike network of German espionage. In 1908 a prominent French general said:—
"German spies are everywhere in France, as before 1870. They are resorting to every device of spying. They are spying through our domestic help, through the street boys, even through the chimney sweeps."

It was established that about forty thousand Germans were working in Paris as waiters and other help in restaurants and hotels at one time, and since the outbreak of the war France convinced herself how far reaching and how poisonous the Kaiser's spy system really is. In the district of Rheims the French

Wilhelm, in an Oath, Swears Never to Give Up Ground Where the German Eagle Has Set Talons—Russia an Illustration of This German System.

discovered a nest of German espionage in the wells where the Germans had prepared telephones and platforms for telephone operators to transmit information to their government.

General French showed that numerous German spies were mingling among the British troops and transmitting to the Germans information about the movements of the British troops at night by means of colored lights and in the daytime by means of smoke from the chimneys of peaceful looking little houses.

Neutrals Under Spy Surveillance. Since the Allies adopted rigorous measures to crush the German spy system the German government resorted to the aid of neutrals to carry on the work of German espionage. Sweden, Denmark and Norway, Holland and Switzerland have become the centres of German espionage. The German Ambassadors and the financial agents are practically directing the espionage activities of the spies.

They are controlling newspapers and editors, press bureaus and motion picture houses for German propaganda and German espionage. They are financing pacifist publications and radical organizations to spread unrest and revolution in the countries of the Allies and to obtain through the pacifists and radicals of the allied countries information about the conditions in these countries.

Last October at a secret meeting of prominent German statesmen and economists the chairman of the organization boasted that German couriers were going through to America and to France regularly, notwithstanding the enormous obstacles placed in their way by the Allies. The Germans declared that their couriers were delivering the messages they were entrusted with and succeeded in doing their confidential work.

Tried to Enlist Noted Men. In their zeal to engage the services of important people in neutral countries, the German agents have occasionally blundered. Thus, in Holland they endeavored to enlist the services of Pastor Lien, a prominent theologian, professor of the Hague University and a member of the League for the Defence of Holland Against German Influence. In Switzerland they turned to Dr. Schermer, a distinguished physician of Lausanne, asking him to go to France for the purpose of gathering information about internal conditions. Dr. Schermer, a Frenchman by birth, made public the German offer in the local newspapers.

In Russia various methods were employed by the German agents to get Russians for German espionage.

Thus about two years before the war some of the Russian newspapers published the following advertisement:—
15,000 RUBLES INCOME A YEAR. Without investing any money whatever, officers, retired functionaries, all those who have access to the highest society, can earn this sum as representatives of a foreign art firm. Send qualifications with brief biography and references.

The address was given. An investigation by the Russian authorities disclosed that the advertisement had been inserted by representatives of the German government, but the agent learned that the Russian government was investigating him, and he disappeared in time.

Wanted Men of Many Languages. Bureaus of a similar nature were organized by German agents in France, England and the United States. The applicant was usually informed that there were many applicants and only the best equipped would be chosen. He was asked to supply information concerning his education, his post in the army or his connection with officers of the army. Those possessing knowledge of several languages were sought eagerly. The moment a person was engaged by the Germans he was assigned to a special instructor, and after that it was difficult for the new agent to extricate himself from the clutches of the German spy system.

Every device to ensnare people into the service of the Kaiser has been resorted to by the secret agents. They lured men with wine, women and cards. They entrapped fickle-minded men with such advertisements as those, which were published in numerous Russian newspapers:—
500 GIRLS AND WIDOWS with dowries up to 200,000 rubles desire to be married. Prospective bridegroom need not be rich. Apply to L. Schlesinger, Berlin 15."

WHO IS WILLING TO MARRY a young, well-to-do Russian girl, possessing 65,000 rubles cash; one man with serious intentions should apply, addressing Schlesinger, Berlin 15."

Fickle minded officers responding to these advertisements were referred to German agents in Russia, who introduced them to good looking women. In the hope of getting their fortunes, the men borrowed until they could borrow no more. Then the young woman would

suggest the name of a friend who could help him financially. For such loans the new "friend" demanded favors in the form of information of a military character which he said he needed as a journalist.

Spies Kept in Hand by Fear. Officers were asked for copies of confidential orders or reports. Little by little the victims were drawn into the German system. If the victim suddenly resolved to furnish no more information to the German agents he was forced to pay his promissory notes immediately, he was threatened with exposure and in certain instances was threatened with death.

According to the materials in possession of the Russian country intelligence, there have been numerous bureaus of German espionage in France, in Belgium, in Monte Carlo and Geneva. Pretty women were connected with these organizations everywhere.

It appears that any one who established relations with such a German bureau could no longer retain his independence. At first the German agents treated the victim courteously and generously, especially if they had reason to believe that his services might prove of value. Later on the new agents were bullied and duped, and yet they could not break their relations with the German system. For it was dangerous. If the revolting spy was of German or Austrian origin his opportunities for work of any kind, or for advancement in Germany or Austria, were absolutely closed.

The threats of the German staff were not mere words. The German agents frequently betrayed unwilling agents to the Russian authorities and their punishment was severe. Some agents in revolt have given themselves up to the Russian authorities and some have committed suicide when they could no longer carry out the orders of the German spies, when they could no longer endure the German threats.

All Types Used in Service. The German espionage system has been drawn in German diplomats and their wives in foreign lands, professors and clergyman, merchants, adventurers, thieves and counterfeiter.

During the Balkan war the following interesting instance of German espionage in Russia was recorded. For the purpose of verifying the position of the Russian troops the German General Staff sent a special agent who disguised himself as a victim of Turkish atrocities and went about in the neighborhood of the Russian military stations begging for the relief of Christian sufferers from Turkish atrocities. He asked each officer to write his name and rank on a special card, and that his fellow victims wanted to pray for them. The list contained the following appeal:—
"Forgive me for troubling you. I am from the village of Aros, of Macedonia, where I suffered untold horrors. My father had a store in that village, Turkish brigands, the sons of the Sultan, and my elder brother, plundering all we possessed. I have a paralyzed mother and three young sisters whom I must support. God's help will help you for any help you will give me."

The spy, appealing to the sympathies of the Russian officers, accomplished for the German government what he had set out to do.

Von Hintze Once Noted Spy. The German spy system embraced such German diplomats as Von Hintze, now Foreign Secretary, and Von Bernstorff, formerly German Ambassador to the United States. By appointing Von Hintze as the head of the Foreign Office, Germany had recognized its master spy as the director of her foreign affairs.

It was this Von Hintze, the Ambassador of the Kaiser to China, who directed German espionage first in the Far East and recently in the Scandinavian countries. Von Hintze has boasted that he visited Paris during the war and remained there one month.

Baron Inzer Sternberg and the woman who posed as his wife and acted as stenographer in the Duma worked hand in hand with the German Ambassadors Furstenberg and Bernstorff for the German spy system. The German consuls also rendered valuable services to the representatives of the secret German agents, knowing that their names were the means of pleasing the Kaiser and of attaining advancement in the service. All the German lieutenants and majors who came to Russia on friendly visits who travelled through various parts of Russia as guests of the Russian government, utilized their opportunities to establish branches of German espionage wherever they went.

The following were among the more important German agents who were exposed in Russia:—Captain of the German General Staff Werner von Stunzner, Lieutenants Baron and Thien and the Austrian Lieutenant Wallach.

Women Play a Big Part. Women are playing a conspicuous part in the German system of espionage.

In his memoirs late Prince Ernst Hohenzollern-Hongeburg wrote several years ago:—
"Before going to Vienna as military agent I had an audience with the Emperor. Instead of instructions, the Emperor kindly remarked: 'You and I must try to amuse yourself in Vienna.' The Minister of War thus explained the words of the Emperor: 'In Austria the men who know how to court the ladies know absolutely everything there is to know.'"

Hohenzollern carried out his mission brilliantly. He made the acquaintance of ballet dancers and actresses and prominent society women and learned through them all the secrets his government wanted to know.

KAISER'S AUTOGRAPH IN DE LUXE ALBUM

*No man brütfler können in können
Jflufffüllingy für fin Rhtelnd
sollind bygodann lings, und so des.
Sollfler Bron fürm Sörng in sindnd
jffflangem fort, und dand if dntflly
und nend. dntflly blubben*

TRANSLATION.

"Wherever a German, in the faithful fulfillment of his duty, lies buried, having fallen for his fatherland, and wherever the German eagle has planted its claws in the soil, such land is German and will remain German."
WILHELM.

soldiers in their superior officers. How the defeat of the Russian forces during the Japanese war affected the Russian officers. The views of the officers with regard to the probability of war with Germany and Austria.

2. The command of the army. Detailed characteristics of the officers and their photographs.

3. Information concerning the uniforms. Photographs and descriptions.

4. Information concerning munitions plans, descriptions, and if possible details about the latest technical innovations in firearms of all sorts.

5. The results of the experiments and, if possible, samples of the guns.

6. Various experiments produced in the army. Reports of manoeuvres. The latest regulations and instructions.

7. The location of the troops. The barracks and the tents. Photographs and sketches.

8. The progress of the air ships. What machines are adopted for use in Russia. Their number. Where the stations are located. How quickly are the newly formed companies trained. The results of the experiments of latest machines.

9. The railroads. The names of stations where troops are likely to board the trains in the event of mobilization. New lines.

10. The telegraph and telephone lines. Wireless stations. Military pigeon posts.

11. Russian fortresses, sketches, photographs and estimate of approximate quantities of provisions.

12. The material condition of the population (in the district where the German spy is stationed). To what political parties the people of that district belong.

Russia Flooded with Spies. These spies travelled in Russia as photographers, salesmen, cattle dealers or lumber merchants. They thus had every opportunity for familiarizing themselves intimately with various phases of Russian life.

According to Nemirovitch Danchenko, the veteran Russian war correspondent, the espionage of the German colonists in Russia.

"The German colonists have led the Germans to our resting armies," he said. "They treacherously led our armies into German traps. They served as guides for the Germans, they sheltered them, they provided them with food, while they denied these to the Russian troops."

"During the war the espionage system of the Prussians has been organized perfectly," declared Nemirovitch Danchenko, the famous Russian war correspondent. "Wherever they came, ready positions they took, they found whatever organizations of signalists, secret telephones, guides, hidden provisions. Even when the Germans retreated they left their secret agents behind. The German colonists kept them hidden in cellars, and then they came out dressed as Russians."

Radio Message from Cellar. As a concrete instance may be mentioned a case of espionage at Riga. When the Russian soldiers were dying in the upper blocks located at the Zhirader factory

Warsaw immediately upon his arrival in the city.

According to the Russian documents, before the outbreak of the war the German spies had prepared signs and posters along the coast of England for the guidance of German troops in the event of a German landing. They employed for that purpose the advertisements of the firm "Maggi."

The London correspondent of the Ruskij Vedomosty stated that before the outbreak of the war many of the walls in London and the provincial towns were covered with advertisements of "Maggi" soup tablets. The advertisements, painted in tin, represented a kind, stout, red faced cook carrying a bowl of steaming soup. The agents of this firm paid for the privilege of putting small signs on the walls of the cottages along the coast.

Each Sign Bore a Map. A day or two after the declaration of the war one of the cottage owners received a telegram from the agent of this firm announcing that he was coming to change the number of the advertisement. The son of the cottage owner, who saw this telegram, was surprised, as there was no number upon the advertisement.

The young man then examined the sign closely and noticed upon the back of it a map of the coast drawn with a knife, indicating the rocks, etc. The young man informed the authorities who examined all the other "Maggi" signs and advertisements. All had maps on the back. The spies thus prepared for the German landing. There were numerous such instances.

Thanks to the statistical work of the German agents, the Germans on entering a city know the location of the most important buildings and houses. Bombardment of the city, they aim at these structures. The information supplied by the secret agents was used in the attempts made upon King Albert and President Poincaré. The German dirigible brought down near Libau in 1915 had among its command Germans who had lived in Libau before the war as barbers, and Lieutenant von Schenk, a Russian landowner and lumber merchant.

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In the next instalment Mr. Bernstein will tell of the newspaper espionage conducted by the secret agents of the Kaiser and of the system by which Germany obtained the military secrets of other Powers.