Mysterious Disappearance of Black Plans for Naval Warfare on Germany Remains Unsolved to the Present Day

The war plan that was less—"Problem solution, Black," dealing with naval tactics against at present except that war with Germany in Atlantic vanishes—Did Germans steal our secrets or were they good guesserst—Probable many is declared.

By JOSEPHUS DANIELS Former Secretary of the Navy-1913 to 1921.

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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, is was carried into effect and then it vanished utterly. The discovery that one of our secret naval plans was missing came when it was too late to have any effect upon the situation. But that did not prevent the newspapers making the most of the sensation, especially such as, for political reasons, had it in for the navy department.

They would never have heard it Bernstorff was dismissed, the gen-

And it was an important plan-at and for offensive naval operations the time it was used. It was a plan against the common enemy." of vital importance.

Navy's "Black Plan."

board, of which Admiral Dewey was chairman until his death in January, 1917, and were kept up to date eral board: "February 10, 1917.—To the Genby frequent revision.

The plan dealing with possible hostilities in the Atlantic was known Problem. as the "Black plan." In February, energy between the folminute form, it dealt, of course, with the probability of war with Ger-

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Extra quality in

laid, perfect goods
—large purchase
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entire lot on sale
at the above special price.

Fiber Chairs and Rockers to

was missing, nor would we have cral board had recommended in deknown it was missing, had we not tail the principal steps to be taken in val vessels and possibility of mobillooked it up for the purpose of proy- case of war with the central powers izing merchant vessels as required ing to certain clamorous critics that -mobilization of the fleet, naval diswe had not gone to war without tricts and auxiliary vessels; large inplans. Long ago it had served its crease of navy and marine corps per- of the whole situation, and a week purpose as a plan, and, as we sup-sonnel; nets and mines to guard later made a report covering all the posed, had been filed away with ports and home waters against sub-matters set forth and sent it to me, thousands of other documents for marines, arming of merchant ships, with the following note of transpurposes of record. But there we and other measures, and, "most im- mittal: were wrong. The plan had not been portant, arrange, as soon as possible filed away, nor could any trace of it plans of co-operation with the naval To this day it has not forces of the allies for the joint protection of trans-Atlantic commerce

The general war plan was com-prehensive; special recommenda-prehensive; special recommenda-"1. In accordance with reference The general war plan was com-The navy for many years has had a set of plans to cover possible size our steps we should take. But I (a) the general board submits hereuations which might develop in the wanted also a definite statement as with problem and solution based Atlantic, the Pacific, the Caribbean sea or other open waters. These we should pursue upon the declarations described in the Navy departplans originated with the general tion of war. These studies are ment's instructions.

eral Board: Subject, 'Solution of "I, The department desires the

tion as soon as practicable: Problem.

Recent Shipments of Reed and Fiber

Furniture Now on Sale

Fiber Porch Swings .. \$20.00 Fiber Settees Fiber Flower Stands .. \$12.50

\$12.00

Reed and Fiber Furniture at a Real Saving

See 16th St. Window Displays.

furniture saves our customers a tidy sum! Ordinarily furniture of this type is pur-

chased at the January Furniture Market, but we found wholesale prices had not

dropped to the low levels we anticipated, therefore, we delayed buying until March

and secured an added 25% reduction on every piece of reed and fiber furniture. You

Our foresight in delaying the purchase of this season's stock of reed and fiber

many is declared.

"Special Situation-The allies do not desire our battleship force at present.

"Required-Naval estimate of the situation: "First, as to the grand strategy

demanded by the situations. "Second, as to disposition of battleship force. "Third, as to the method of assist-

"Fourth, as to the methods of

driving submarines from the sea.
"Assume-Mobilization of all na-JOSEPHUS DANIELS." The board made a careful study

Problem Is Solved. "General Board, Navy Depart-ment, Washington, Feb. 17, 1917.— To Secretary of the Navy: Subject, 'Solution of Problem,' Black. "Reference (a) Navy Department Confidential Letter of February 10,

"CHARLES J. BADGER." Such care was taken to keep this document from anyone except the secretary and the office of naval operations that even the general board retained no duplicate of it. Aftre being submitted to me for aproval, it was turned over to the lowing problem and submit its soluchief of naval operations; all plans that had been approved were in their custody. They were familiar with "General Situation-Conditions as their provisions and drafted the

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Attention.

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SHADES

\$1.00 Values

65¢

6 ft. Cloth Shades,

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fect goods, 36 in. wide, guaranteed rollers, cream, tan

and slate.

Fiber Sun Room Tables.

\ each\$29.50

Problem, Black" was gone!

find any trace of it. How long had it been missing? No one could answer.

Not Stolen by German Spy. The newspapers hinted that it had been stolen by some German spy. uch was the obvious suspicion. The

suggestion that it might have been America. The latter is more easily stolen by some German spy was given no credence in the department. before we announced that they had Nothing is so carefully guarded as war plans, and so far as we know the Germans never got hold of any of ours, although early in the war a number of things occurred which made us wonder how much they did know. For example:

Movements of vessels and orders far out at sea, and Admiral Sims "deped out" the probable route. The Then, in June, 1917, worn out with petition states

they were coming.

72-inch Buffet ...\$195

Host Chair

The most thorough search failed to even the commander of the flotilla cablegrams about it in three days, knew :ts destination.

Yet the day before the division aracross the entrance to Oueenstown, and the German papers printed the news of our destroyers' arrival before it was published in England or accounted for, as it was several days reached a British port, but the mine la Ag led many to believe that the enemy had, in some way, learned

We pride ourselves on showing the most exclusive line of fine dining room furniture in Omaha-"LIMBERT"-from Michigan-the home of the best in fur-

The Queen Anne period suite shown below is made of solid mahogany and walnut and is an example of the character of furniture you can expect to see at Hartman's. We quote you the greatly reduced prices that you may know that it is possible to save money here. REGULAR PRICE \$750—TOMORROW......

Chairs, each .. \$27

Germans "Doped It Out."

first time in months, sowed mines all have scarned about our ship movements on the other side, I am con- the plan in absolute secrecy. went to Europe they were attacked were being dispatched and merely whereabouts.

Elegant Dining Suite

American Walnut or Brown Mahogany

miles at sea and broke the seal, not it at the time, for he sent me two or that it in any way fell into Gereven the commander of the flotilla cablegrams about it in three days.

One of our latest destroyers is named after him—the "Chase," He think, will, be found to be quite pay that tribute to his memory. But whatever the Germans might simple, and will show that it was

fident that they did not get any in- As I have said, but one copy was formation from this side of the At- made of it. It was probably given lartic. The navy had control of all into the care of Capt. Volney Chase, radio, every cable message was chief assistant to Admiral Benson, scanned and even the destroyer and and a man to whom matters of the transport captains did not know their utmost importance were frequently Omaha was filed in federal court destination until they were well out committed. Captain Chase was an yesterday by the Thomas J. Henat sea. My own opinion is that the exceedingly able and unsparingly derson company of New Orleans. Germans, who knew of General devoted officer. It is not unlikely that Damages of that amount are sought Pershing's arrival in England, which he out the "Black plan" problem on an alleged breach of contract for

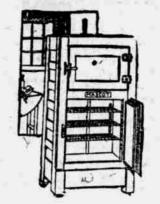
necessary orders for carrying them relating thereto were known only to cabled that it was "practically cer- mine laying at Queenstown was, as almost ceaseless work, he died-died into effect. But plans were so care- the few officials in the navy depart- tain that the enemy knew positions likely as not, simply a coincidence. | sud-lenly. So far as we know, the fully safeguarded that only those di- ment who issued the orders and to of the first rendezvous and accord- And so I am satisfied in my own "Black plan" problem was never rectly concerned were allowed to see the men on the vessels. Great pains ingly sent a submarine to intercept them. were taken to prevent the Germans before junction with destroyers," "Problem Solution, Black," will yet Captain Chase. He probably took the And yet, in spite of all our pre- from learning about the first de- Though Sims afterward discounted be found carefully-too carefully- secret of its hiding place with him. captions, the document containing stroyers sent over. They sailed under the idea that the convoys were at- hidden away in the Navy department. Certainly, no enemy learned it as the general board's "Solution of scaled orders, and until he was fifty tacked he was excited enough about I have never believed it was stolen, long as it was locked in his brain.

The explanation of its vanishing, I merited the houor, and I was glad to (Another article by former Secretary Daniels will be printed tomorrow).

Omaha Grocery Firm Sued

On \$9,200 Sugar Contract Suit for \$9,200 against the Williams-Murphy Grocery company of

occurred the day after our first con- away in some secret drawer or cab- sugar, the petition states. The Omaha When our first troop convoys voys sailed, interred that troops inct, confiding in no one as to its firm refused acceptance of the shipments after the market had fallen, the



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Is scientifically built of selected ash and is lined with mineral wool. The large food compartment is heavily \$3150 bargain, at.....



As Illustrated

Patterned after the William and Mary period with grace-ful turned legs. An unusually good looking library table in mahogany

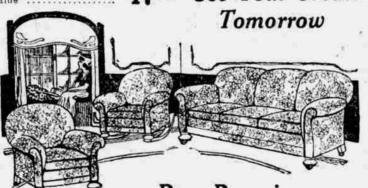
The "bed spring luxurious" guaranteed for a lifetime. Its quality is inherent, with a structural integrity that has been proven in years of service in thousands of homes. Ask to see this spring.

A Spinet Desk

Shop where you will—you'll find a bargain such as this. Mahogany or walnut \$4975 finish. Cash or credit, \$4975

ny or walnut \$4275

There is a certain charm about it Use Your Credit



Rare Bargain Special Tomorrow

The World's Greatest

Home Furnishers

If you are seeking a parlor suite that will give the utmost in comfort and satisfaction, we ask you to come Monday and see the handsome suite illustrated at this very special price. Loose cushions-upbolstered in rich tapestry-suite complete, at

BARGAINS

9x12 Seamless Velvet Rugs Offering patterns from a shi

27x54-Inch Velvet and Axminster Rugs Odds and ends-values up

\$10. Several patterns, all col-ors and specially priced fo-quick selling at, each—

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Oval Table 8 feet (48x60).\$105

China Cabinet\$115

No Server Included

Large Size Buffet

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The quaint design will add greatly to the appearance of any room you

choose to put it in. You will like the finish \$2750 on the rocker we offer



For the Entire Suite-

If you are thrifty you will not pass up this unusual bargain in a high-grade mahogany and cane suite. We particularly call your attention to the quality of these suites-you must actually see them to appreciate their worth; several patterns in velous

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Feather Your Nest

In Queen Anne

Gracefully patterned after the Queen Anne period. If you have priced davenport \$5250 tables recently, you will appreciate this price...

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While the casual observer cannot detect it, this duofold opens to a full size bed. 4975 in Spanish fabricold...

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benefit by this tremendous saving now!

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Smart Sport Dresses, Dainty Dinner and Dance Dresses

> in materials now in constant demand

Sport Suits

For Club and Street wear. Smart styles in the wanted shades and smart combinations. Grouped special-

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Lady Ruth Front Lace Corset, made by R & G; pińk brocade, medium bust wide rubber in back, 2 pairs hose supporters, also has shield in front. Extra special

\$5.00

It Pays-TRY HAYDEN'S FIRST-It Pays

Specials for Monday WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR At 69c Soft Muslin or Batiste Chemise

and Tailored Gowns-trimmed with lace and embroidery, At 95¢ Batlate Gowns and Chemise pink or white, trimmed with fine laces and embroidery, built-

up shoulders, ribbon shoulder

straps. At \$1.85 Crepe de Chine Chemise and Camisoles trimmed with Val.

lace and crepe. Batiste and Nainsook Gowns, lace yokes. Petticoats, muslin tops, lace and embroidered flounces.



Exclusive Features:

Shelf Extender. Work Table.

Only

only.

Kitchen Slave? Don't Be a Slave

Special

and

Are You a

to your kitchen, when a down payment of only \$1 will systematize your work and give you time for recreation and rest. The privilege is yours—"The Best Servant in Your House,"

Only Down

Copper Bound

the natural beauty of \$2950 red cedar. Of goodly \$2950 mings of copper, at....

No. 3-Automatic Base No. 4 - Dovetail Construction - in good furniture No. 5-Dust-Proof Base Top Underneath the Porceliton No. 6-Glass Knobs.

Down THE BETTER KITCHEN CABINE Easy Terms

Easy Terms

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Hosiery Specials In Our Monday's Sale Women's Fiber and Thread Silk Hose-Hemmed or rib top, reg-

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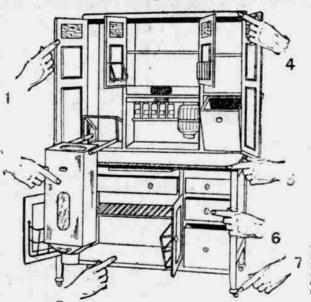
Three pairs for\$1.00

Corset News of Interest

value, at-

Sizes 21 to 36 Second Floor

Down Sale



No. 1-Oil hand-rubbed fin-, No. 2-Automatic Lowering

No. 7-Ant-Proof Casters.

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