

SCAMP 1958

III + IV

LECTURE III - 27 June

Section 1 - 1415 - 1500 (no slides) 45

(Walter Cronkite's "You are There" film) } 50

Section 2 - 1525 - 1615 50

How I came to be a cryptanalyst
 WIE and other papers work in
 OCSig O to
 WWII

ZIMMERMANIN

TELEGRAM"

95

Lecture III - 27 June 1958

Section 1 - Prefatory remarks ^{15 min}
 followed by Walter Brookhite
 film, "You are there!" "The
 secret message that plunged
 America into war."
 (Zimmermann Telegram) 30 min
 45 minutes

Section 2 - Devoted entirely to
 discussion of the Z.T., with
 reading of extracts from my
 brochure, Admiral James' book,
 & Furing book.

LECTURE NOTE

SLIDE 29

The Zimmermann telegram as deciphered by the British Room 40 O.B.

*Here is a translation of the thing. It was important because the message said the Germans were going to resume unrestricted submarine warfare and this part, here, dealing with a deal with Mexico, was the straw that broke the camel's back. People in the Middle West were very lukewarm toward the idea of our getting into the War - on either side- but when the Germans began talking about returning to Mexico Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, that was something else again. So we got into the war within a couple

- over -

of weeks after the British gave us and established the authenticity of the translation of "the Zimmermann telegram."

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(How the Zimmermann telegram was deciphered makes a fascinating story in itself and shows how astute use was made by the British of this telegram. German amazement and embarrassment. Question of spy work etc. in Mexico. British covered up the trail excellently!)

World War II

SCAMP '58
27 June 1958

Lecture III - Section 1

Preface	15 minutes	- 1415 - 1430 1430
Film	30	- 1430 - 1500
	<u>45</u>	

World War I breaks out in August 1914
 By 1914 Britain had become so dependent on sea-borne imports that people couldn't live, let alone wage war, for more than 4-5 weeks after sea-lines of communication to the outer world were severed

Protection of these sea-lines was Br Navy's principal task. Central powers not dependent on sea-borne imports and Navy's historic function of arresting enemy's sea-borne trade lapsed after German shipping found refuge in neutral ports. Br trade-route protection was responsibility of Grand Fleet. Battle with almost equally-strong German Fleet would nullify this protection, but

Germans were not inclined to risk their fleet

German hopes of quick victory shattered when their armies brought to standstill in France & with each month it became more evident to Kaiser W & his advisers that there would be no victory unless the sea-borne trade destroyed

Success of German small sub flotilla of 1914 pointed way out without risking their high seas fleets highest priority given to building subs

Rules of maritime warfare required that no merchant ship be sunk without warning & before crew could take to boats but observance of these rules severely reduced destructive power of subs & their commanders ordered to ignore them.

R were unprepared for such offensive & there came a time when daily toll of ship losses so heavy that unless something new was devised there could be only one end to the war - and soon.

Scientists, shipbuilders & sailors tremendous exertions enabled R to turn the corner but it was not until early 1918 that they gained mastery over subs

During 1st year of sub warfare German Govt respected rights of neutrals but when faced with prospect of losing unless all imports to R Isles stopped they made fateful decision to order subs to sink at sight all ships on high seas. This had been tried once before but neutral as report Germans had to save it up but was struck sub warfare

Unrestricted ^{sub war} in Feb 1917 proclaimed

Br expected US, already exasperated by activities of German agents in America & German boat specious excuses for sinking Am ships, would join Allies but Pres Wilson was determined to keep out of war & tried earnestly to moderate, keep neutral, like Holland, Denmark, Norway etc. S Am Republics not unsympathetic to Germany, Spain neutral but no lack of sympathy so Br & German agents conducted their own private war on Spanish soil

U.S. sympathies on the whole with Allies but large German-American population had to be taken into account - even when Br high-handed action every once in a while hurt their case

3] So U.S. ~~great~~ official attitude & position very difficult.
 President Wilson was hesitating on
 the brink of war, reluctant to
 plunge into it, clinging painfully
 to the idea of strict neutrality
 which seemed to be almost a
 part of his religion.

~~He~~ ~~pledged~~ for 2d term - He kept us out of war.
 His statement. There is such a thing as
 being too proud to fight" - over -

For large part of U.S. + for Middle + Far West, the war in Europe ~~was~~ was 3000 miles across the Atlantic — it might as well have been on another planet

Then came a cryptanalytic episode which ~~entirely~~ changed the picture — and almost overnight

— The Zimmermann Telegram

The solution of this message and the brilliant way in which the ~~Br~~ used it brought the U.S. into the war on the side of ~~allies~~ Allies

Had decided weeks ago to give fairly
 detailed account of Zimmermann
 Telegram episode and had ^{ordered} shipped
 out ^{to SCAMP of motion picture sound film} Walter Cronkite's ^{story of the event.}
 which we are about to see & hear. But
 just yesterday I received a letter
 from which I'd like to read a few
 lines: ^{no time to request permission but} "Can't my friend wouldn't object
 to reading before this group."
 -over-

Cude Jenkinson, who he is
 My visit a few weeks ago when with
 My letter of 26 May on return home
 Read P from his letter

So the Z.T. is quite a live
 subject today - 42 years later!

10
 16
 -2

Walter Cronkite

"You are there!" film

Title: The secret message that
plunged America into war

Running time 30 minutes

~~3^d Prod - SCMP 25 June 58~~

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Stop.

Film Comes now

LECTURE

SLIDE 28

The Zimmermann telegram

△The telegram which brought American into the war on the Allied side, World War I. Many reasons for thinking we might go in on the side of the Germans and had they been more astute diplomatically, it might have turned out that way!)

(24)