

# GERMAN PLANS TO INVADE BRITAIN AND AMERICA IN WORLD WARS 1 & 2

Compiled by C White

Winston Churchill wrote a six-volume history of the war. He felt that it was his duty to "to lay the lessons of the past before the future" (The Gathering Storm, p. iv) ... "It is my earnest hope that pondering upon the past may give guidance in days to come... [to] a new generation" (ibid., p. v). Because, in 1934 he had warned that "none of the lessons of the past has been learned, not one of them has been applied, and the situation is incomparably more dangerous" (ibid., p. 93).

## **German plans against Britain and America go back a long time! The Plot to Bring Down the British Empire**

Like Hidden Fire: The Plot to Bring Down the British Empire by Peter Hopkirk

[Extracts Only]:

Great Britain and the Tsarist empire, so long at daggers drawn in Central Asia and the approaches to British India, found themselves uneasily allied in 1914 against the crescent power of the Wilhelmine Reich.

German devotees of the geopolitical maunderings of Halford Mackinder cast covetous eyes upon the Near East. And when the Great War erupted in smoke and shot, the Germans moved in for the kill. Having coopted the Turks into the Central Powers alliance, they set their sights on nothing less than the destruction of the British Empire.

Enter one Wilhelm Wassmuss ... With Turkey in the Hohenzollern camp, and the Reich thus in effective control of the Sultan-Caliph, it was Berlin's idea that a jihad against the sarkar, the Raj, could be raised: Turkey and Persia in flames, the Gulf Trucial States in arms, the landlines to India cut, the wild Afghans poised to sweep down upon the Viceroy's denuded forces, the Indian Army itself wracked by a new Great Mutiny.... Wassmuss was sent out, with an Indian nationalist or two in the Wilhelmstrasse's pocket, to raise the revolt. (As in the Second World War, there were colonial malcontents so bitter against British rule that they would align themselves with despots and commit treason to all humanity to bring it down.)

Oh, and Wassmuss? He escaped at the time, but he left behind a code book. It, with a similar treasure trove from a sinking German vessel in the Baltic, made its way to Room 40 at the British Admiralty, whence Admiral 'Blinker' Hall ran naval intelligence. In 1917, it was used to decipher the Zimmermann Telegram, a German attempt to bribe Mexico to attack the US and keep it out of the European war; which of course brought the US in on the Allied side.

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<http://europeanhistory.about.com/library/weekly/aa050902a.htm>

## **A German Attack On America? The invasion plans which have been hidden for a century**

German battleships shelling Boston? Infantry battalions storming the streets of New York? These events might read like something from science fiction, but new research suggests that Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany was considering an attack on the United States.

The German newspaper *Die Zeit* has published a set of newly discovered documents, dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century; they were found in a military archive at Freiburg, south Germany. The files relate to the Kaiser's famous desire to conquer an empire, and archivists have found a series of stunning material: plans for the invasion of the mainland United States.

Two of the most sensational strategies were created, at the behest of the Kaiser, by a naval officer called Eberhard von Mantey and then probably refined by Admiral Tirpitz. One, dating from 1897, planned a sea-borne invasion of Norfolk, Hampton and the Newport News, areas of America that were considered particularly vulnerable. The plan was changed in 1898 when American victories over Spain left the U.S. in control of Cuba, a region which Wilhem II coveted: the files show his desire to build a military base there. The revised plan called, not for a naval blockade or sea battle to aid in the capture of Cuba, but for a huge invasion of New York and the surrounding region.

Without seeing the documents it is difficult to say exactly what the plan would have been - whether the German military was aiming simply for a show of strength or whether it intended to occupy New York permanently - but some details are certain. A massive flotilla of ships would be dispatched, carrying around 100,000 troops and a terrific strength in artillery. The ships would then shell New York, Boston and other targets - the German military believed this would cause significant panic - before troops disembarked and began to plunder.

The English language media has reacted to this discovery with its traditional reactionary journalism and poor academic standards, calling the Kaiser a megalomaniac and the plans those for world domination. These descriptions may be true, but they present a gross simplification of the late nineteenth century. Historians have known for many years, just as contemporary politicians did, that the newly created Germany (or *Kaiserreich*) wanted an empire of foreign land, just like those of Britain, Spain and, to a lesser extent, France and Portugal. One obvious target was South America, and the new material reveals debates between the German high command, regarding bases on Puerto Rico and plans to capture the Panama Canal.

Crucially, the seizure of these lands would have brought Germany into conflict with the United States, a relatively new world power at the start of its swift rise to Superpower status. U.S. politicians were aware of the Kaiser's territorial hunger, and in 1917 the U.S. ambassador to Germany argued in favour of American intervention in the Great War because of it:

"I believe that we are not only justly in this war, but prudently in this war. If we had stayed out and the war had been drawn or won by Germany we should have been attacked, and that while Europe stood grinning by: not directly at first, but through an attack on some Central or South American State...and what if this powerful nation, vowed to war, were once firmly established in South or Central America? What of our boasted isolation then?" (James W. Gerard, *My Four Years in Germany*, cited from *Voices from the Great War*, ed. P. Vansittart, Pimlico, 1998, p. 161 - 162.)

The plans for attacking the U.S. fit seamlessly into the broader desire of the Kaiserreich for an empire and a swift and shocking invasion would have demonstrated German might, possibly preventing the US from acting against German expansion; of course, that's only if the plan succeeded. Even allowing for the 1890's radically different military climate, the whole scheme is still slightly fantastical. This might be one reason why the plans were never implemented, remaining dormant until being dropped in 1906. By then, the state of world politics had changed: America's strength had continued growing while events in Europe suggested that a war might soon be fought on the continent.

Overall, the documents have a twofold importance. For historians, they cast further light on the Kaiserreich, enabling greater insight into imperial policy and - for better or worse - allowing a few academics to draw greater comparisons with the Nazi period. For everyone else, especially the citizens of New York, the archive is a quirky, and possibly ghoulish, insight into the route history could have taken. Even if German forces had failed to subdue America, their invasion would have changed U.S. policy, and our own history.

Readers may be interested to note that History Net are planning an article exploring the German threat to the United States. Entitled "Perspectives: The U.S. - German War Scare", this piece by Robert Conroy discusses the following: "In the wake of the Spanish-American War, the U.S. Navy in the Pacific had several tense encounters with naval units of another budding imperialist power - Germany. Only luck kept the U.S. from being occupied by Germany between 1899 and 1904." This potentially contentious feature will be published before the end of the summer.

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[http://images.about.com/all/bullets/dot\\_clea.gif](http://images.about.com/all/bullets/dot_clea.gif)

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## **William L. Shirer in The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich, p.782 notes**

"The Nazi German invasion of Britain would have not been a gentle affair. The captured German papers leave no doubt of that. On September 9 [1940] Brauchitsch, the Commander in chief of the Army, signed a directive providing that "the able-bodied male population between the ages of seventeen and forty-five [in Britain] will, unless the local situation calls for an exceptional ruling, be interned and dispatched to the Continent... In no other conquered country, not even in Poland, had the Germans begun with such a drastic step...[The plans] ... seem designed to ensure the systematic plunder of the island and the terrorization of its inhabitants ... Everything but normal household stocks were to be confiscated at once".

So, Hitler's siren call over the radio that the British Empire should cooperate with Nazi Germany was rightly eschewed by Churchill. Also, Leftist lies that many of the British aristocracy and Royalty were Nazi symapthisers were thoroughly investigated, but left egg on the faces of the Left. No evidence has ever been found. To the contrary, plans were found to massacre the British ruling classes.

Those that heeded the siren call prior to the war (such as Ford) found out what was going on and quickly turned away from this evil. Crackpot and unprovable conspiracy theories to the contrary.

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[www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) , May 8, 2002

## **Kaiser Wilhelm's Germany Had Plan to Take New York**

Germany under Kaiser Wilhelm had drawn up detailed plans in 1900 for an invasion of the United States centered on attacks on New York City and Boston, according to documents in a military archive published on Thursday.

The weekly newspaper Die Zeit published details from documents it said it uncovered in Germany's official military archives in Freiburg. One plan foresaw a force of 100,000 soldiers transported across the Atlantic on 60 ships.

Beginning in 1897, a German navy lieutenant named Eberhard von Mantey was assigned the task of preparing an invasion of the United States after German and American interests had collided in the Pacific.

"Wilhelm II wanted colonies and military bases around the world," author Henning Sietz wrote in Die Zeit. "The United States was increasingly getting in the Kaiser's way."

Von Mantey's aim was to find a way to force the United States to sign a treaty giving Germany free reign in the Pacific and Atlantic. He rejected ideas of a naval blockade or a naval battle and made plans for an invasion of the northeast instead.

"This is the core of America and this is where the United States could be most effectively hit and most easily forced to sign a peace treaty," von Mantey wrote. He said the morale and discipline of American soldiers was low.

The plans were reworked and revised over the next decade. Chief of staff Alfred von Schlieffen, who planned Germany's invasion of France in World War One, was skeptical about the idea of attacking the United States, 3,000 sea miles away.

But his loyalty to the Kaiser prevented him from rejecting the war planning outright, Sietz said. At one point the German chief of staff had a plan to bombard New York City.

"The greatest panic would break out in New York over fears of a bombardment," von Mantey wrote.

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[http://www.simonsingh.net/Zimmermann\\_Telegram.html](http://www.simonsingh.net/Zimmermann_Telegram.html)

## **“The Zimmermann Telegram” The Independent**

On 9 January 1917, the German Supreme High Command held a momentous meeting. Previously, they had agreed that U-boats must surface before firing their torpedoes, a restriction that would limit accidental attacks on civilian shipping, but now German commanders were about to agree on a course of all-out U-boat aggression, which was set to begin on 1 February. Although such a change of policy would cut off supply lines and possibly starve Britain into submission within six months, there was a risk attached to this strategy. Up until this point, President Woodrow Wilson had kept America neutral, but the inevitability of civilian casualties resulting from all-out U-boat aggression threatened to draw America into the war. Consequently, the German Foreign Minister, Arthur Zimmermann, decided to draw up an insurance policy.

Zimmermann sent a telegram to the President of Mexico, stating that in the case of America entering the war, then Germany would support a Mexican invasion of America, helping it to reclaim territories such as Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. If Zimmermann's plan worked, then America would be too busy defending itself at home to become involved in the European conflict. Ideally he would have sent the message via Germany's own transatlantic cables, but before dawn on the first day of the war, the British ship Telconia had approached the German coast under cover of darkness and severed Germany's transatlantic cables. This act of sabotage forced Zimmermann to send his telegram via cables that touched Britain.

Zimmermann had encrypted the telegram, and assumed that the German codes were strong enough to protect his message, but he underestimated the skills of the British codebreakers, who immediately set to work deciphering the telegram. The Admiralty's codebreaking office, known as Room 40, were well versed in cracking a whole variety of codes. For example, Room 40 had solved the mystery behind a Turkish postcard that had been addressed to Sir Henry Jones, 184 King's Road, Tighnabruach, Scotland. Sir Henry assumed that it was from his son, a prisoner of the Turks, but he was puzzled

because the postcard was blank, and the address was peculiar – none of the houses in Tighnabruaich were numbered and there was no King's Road.

Room 40's codebreakers realised the address alluded to the Bible, First Kings, Chapter 18, Verse 4: "*Obadiah took a hundred prophets, and hid them fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.*" Sir Henry's son was simply reassuring his family that he was being well looked after by his captors. Although Room 40 rapidly deciphered the Zimmermann telegram, the British did not immediately show it to the Americans. If the Americans entered the war because of the hostile contents of the telegram, then the Germans would realize that their diplomatic code had been broken, and they might then upgrade their codes, depriving the British of a valuable source of intelligence. Furthermore, unrestricted U-boat warfare was due to begin in just a matter of days, and this in itself might provoke the Americans into entering war. Why risk losing a source of intelligence, if the Americans might already be on the verge of joining the Allies? On 1 February, Germany embarked on its strategy of unrestricted U-boat warfare, but two days later President Wilson announced to Congress that America would continue to remain neutral. This left the British with no choice but to reveal the contents of the Zimmermann telegram.

At the beginning of the year Wilson had said that it would be a "*crime against civilization*" to lead his nation to war, but the Zimmermann telegram forced him to change his mind:

*"I advise that the Congress declare the recent course of the Imperial Government to be in fact nothing less than war against the government and people of the United States, and that it formally accept the status of belligerent which has thus been thrust upon it."*

A single breakthrough by Room 40's codebreakers had succeeded where three years of intensive diplomacy had failed.

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<http://www.thedailytimes.com/sited/story/html/118089>

### **"Germans planned U.S. invasion century ago" The Daily Times. 2003-01-12**

We write a lot about history and some of our military clashes because they are important. History repeats itself. And continually as researchers obtain access to newly available records - no matter how old - there are constantly new facts revealed. Many of these new facts are the result of a lot of digging by researchers.

Early last year, military archivists found 19th century plans for a German invasion of America. Goal of the plan was not to conquer and hold the United States under the German flag. Instead, Kaiser Wilhelm wanted to "put America in its place" and exact concessions in return for withdrawing, according to a recent article in American Heritage magazine.

Of particular concern was Germany's hopes to expand its empire into the Pacific. With America preparing to annex Hawaii and build a canal through Panama, the Germans feared being crowded out of that area.

Kaiser Bill as he was referred to by many during World War I, gave the job of drafting a strategy to Eberhard von Mantey, a 28-year-old naval lieutenant.

The first plan which was devised in 1897, called for a surprise naval assault on American shipyards at Norfolk, Hampton Roads, and Newport News, Va., similar in concept to one at Pearl Harbor by the Japanese.

However, before Germany could take action the Spanish-American war broke out in 1898. In that brief skirmish the United States increased its Pacific presence and gained effective control of Cuba where Germany had hoped to build a naval base.

Mantey devised a revised plan that concentrated on northern population centers. German troops would land on Cape Cod and march to Boston, Mass. as a flotilla shelled New York City, causing panic and making the city an easy target for a landing force.

Nothing became of Mantey's second plan either. German chief of staff Count Alfred von Schlieffen, balked at committing 100,000 troops it would have required. The idea was dropped in 1906.

A little more than a decade later during World War I, Germany being otherwise occupied in Europe, encouraged Mexico to invade the United States across the Rio Grande. When the United States learned of the proposal by intercepting a Zimmermann Telegram, it drew closer to entering World War I.

Students of history will recall how the pugnacious Secretary of Navy and later President, Teddy Roosevelt, raised America's martial spirit that led to the Spanish-American War. And they will also recall how nearly a century earlier America came together after it was invaded.

Much of the nation - especially New England - did not support the War of 1812 saying it was started only to expand the United States to the west and southwest. However, that attitude changed abruptly when British troops devastated Maryland and burned the White House in 1814. The nation was united just as it is today in the War on Terrorism. As a nation we are not to be trifled with.

Dean Stone is editor of *The Daily Times*.

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<http://www.telegraph.co.uk>

## **Telegram that brought US into Great War is found**

By Ben Fenton  
(Filed: 17/10/2005)

An original typescript of the deciphered Zimmerman Telegram, one of the greatest coups mounted by Britain's intelligence services, has been discovered.

The document is believed to be the actual telegram shown to the American ambassador in London in 1917 that proved Germany's hostility to the United States and guaranteed President Woodrow Wilson's entry into the First World War.

Historians say no single piece of paper did more to guarantee victory in the Great War for Britain and her allies.

It was intercepted and deciphered by Room 40, a predecessor of GCHQ, the Government's top secret listening post, in January 1917.

So many documents surrounding the affair were destroyed on the orders of Adml Sir Reginald "Blinker" Hall, the director of naval intelligence, it was assumed the original typed "decrypt" was gone for ever. But the official historian of GCHQ found it while researching an "official", that is to say secret, history of the organisation.

"It is a chance survival," said the historian, who asked not to be named. "It is thrilling to have got it."

The interception of the Zimmerman Telegram gave Britain the lever it needed to drag America into the war which had fallen into stalemate on the Western Front.

The decrypted message showed Arthur Zimmerman, the German foreign minister, instructing his representative in Mexico City to persuade the Mexicans to invade America.

In exchange, Germany would guarantee the "reconquest" of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, lost by Mexico to America 70 years earlier.

Zimmerman was assuming America would soon declare war on Germany anyway because, as was mentioned in his telegram, the Kaiser's navy was about to revive its policy of "unrestrained submarine warfare". This had cost many American lives when the Lusitania was sunk off Ireland in 1915. But even after the Germans announced their new policy on Feb 1, 1917, President Wilson held back.

The British had intercepted the telegram as the message passed along American-owned cables through London to Johann von Bernstorff, the German ambassador in Washington, on Jan 16.

On its electrical journey from Germany's foreign ministry in Berlin to its embassy in Washington, the Zimmerman note was encrypted in a new cipher, described on the document as "7500", which Admiralty codebreakers in Room 40 had only just begun to crack.

But when von Bernstorff forwarded the message, as instructed, to his colleague in Mexico City, who did not have a copy of the extra secret 7500 decoding book, he used an older code called "103040".

From the partial decipherment of the 7500 cable by the cryptanalysts Nigel de Grey and the Rev William Montgomery, Blinker Hall - his nickname derived from a facial tic - already knew enough to realise that it was of enormous importance.

He ordered his agent in Mexico City to get a copy.

This the agent did, by theft or bribery, and passed it back to London, where de Grey was relieved to find it written in the 103040 code, which had been broken by Room 40.

By Feb 23, the full, shocking text was ready and anti-German sentiment in Washington was already high thanks to the U-boat announcement.

On that day, Hall gave the typescript to Arthur Balfour, the Foreign Secretary, who showed it, but did not give it, to Walter Page, the US ambassador to London. Page transmitted the contents to President Wilson on Feb 25.

Four days later, Wilson released details to the press and in the ensuing outrage, easily persuaded Congress to declare war on Germany.

The newly-discovered document says, in Hall's handwriting at the top: "This is the one handed to Dr Page and exposed by the President."

The GCHQ official historian said: "I believe that this is indeed the same document that Balfour handed to Page."

So valuable does GCHQ consider this primary document of perhaps their first great triumph, only a photocopy went to the National Archives.

### **The Zimmerman telegram**

MOST SECRET

For Your Excellency's personal information and to be handed on to the Imperial Minister in Mexico. We intend to begin unrestricted submarine warfare on the first of February. We shall endeavour in spite of this to keep the United States neutral.

In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of an alliance on the following basis: Make war together, make peace together.

Generous financial support, and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement detail is left to you.

You will inform the President [of Mexico] of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, invite Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves.

Please call the President's attention to the fact that the unrestricted employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England to make peace within a few months. Acknowledge receipt.

Zimmerman

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"It was of interest to me [Wilhelm II] that the Pope said to me on this occasion that **Germany must become the sword of the Catholic Church**. I remarked that the old Roman Empire of the German nation no longer existed and that conditions had changed. But he stuck to his words" (*The Kaiser's Memoirs*, p.211).

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George Bailey, In *Germans: Biography of an Obsession*, published in 1972, author George Bailey asks: "... can we be sure that history has written finis to what was perhaps the grandest design ever conceived by man: the Holy Roman Empire?" (p.360).

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