SCAMP 1958  III + IV

LECTURE III - 27 June

Section 1 - 1415 - 1500 (no slides)
  Walter Cronkrite's "You are There" film

Section 2 - 1525 - 1615
  How I came to be a cryptologist
  WWI army cipher work
  Zimmermann Telegram
  OSS sig 0 to WW II
Lecture III - 27 June 1958

Section 1 - Prefatory remarks

Followed by Walter Cronkite film, "You and 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 brother, Admiral James' book, "Rising book."
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

Lecture III - Section 1

Preface 15 minutes - 1415 - 1430
Film 30 - 1430 - 1500
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-lanes of communication to the outside world were severed.

Protection of these sea-lanes was the Navy’s principal task. Central powers not dependent on sea-borne imports and Navy’s historic function of arresting enemy’s sea-borne trade exposed after German shipping found refuge in neutral ports. In trade-route protection was responsibility of Grand Fleet. Battle was almost equally strong, German Fleet would nullify this protection, but
Germans were not inclined to risk their fleet

German hopes of quick victory shattered

their armies brought to standstill in France a

with each month it became more evident to

Kaiser W & his advisors that there would be

no victory unless the sea-borne trade destroyed

Success of German small sub-flootilla 1916

pointed way only without reaching their 'high seas

fleets' highest priority given to building subs

Rules of maritime warfare required that no

merchant ships be sunk without warning before

their crews could take to boats. But officers whose

rules severely reduced destructive power of

subs & their pilots ordered to ignore them.
By were unprepared for such offensives - 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, and sailors tremendous exertions enabled RN to turn the corner but it was not until early 1918 they gained mastery over subs.

During 1st year of submarine warfare German got respected rights of neutrals but when faced with prospect of losing unless all imports to RN were stopped they made fateful decision to order subs to sink all ships on high seas thereafter.

But ours kept going and subs were so unable to sink us it was decided to war.
Unrestricted in Feb, 1917 proclaimed.

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

U.S sympathies on the whole with Allies hit large German-American population had to be taken into account - even when by high-handed action every one in a while short their case.
So U.S. 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. Then ploughed for 2d term. He kept us out, just. His statement: there is such a thing as being too proud to fight."
For large part of U.S. & for Middle & Far West, the war in Europe 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 U.S. used it brought the U.S. into the war on the side of Allies.
Had decided weeks ago to give fairly detailed account of Zimmermann telegram episode and had shipped off to Scamp of motion picture sound film. We are about to see & hear. But just yesterday I received a letter which I'd like to read a few lines from which I'll like to read a few lines. Can your friend withdraw object to reading before this group. --over--
Curtis Jernewton, who he is.
My visit a few weeks ago when we
My letter of 26 May on return home.
Read P from his letter.
So the Z.T. is quite a live subject today—we years later.
Walter Cronkite

"You are there!" film

Title: The secret message that plunged America into War

Running time: 30 minutes
Stop.
Film Comes Now
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!)