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# TWENTY YEARS AFTER

**The front page headlines displayed by the group above tell the story—it is August, 1914, and the world is aflame. And what were YOU doing just before “An Austrian Army Awfully Arrayed Boldly By Battery Besieged Belgrade”? In the accompanying article are listed some of the things some people were doing during that fateful summer twenty years ago**

**T**WENTY years ago this month fate caught up with ten million more or less young Europeans and began feeding them into the gigantic hopper of a war that eventually became the greatest in history. The world is still paying for the blood and treasure that were poured out in that fifty-one months of concentrated fury, in the last twenty of which America had a portentous part.

Though the assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne and his consort, the immediate cause of it all, was perpetrated on June 28th of 1914, the first declaration of war, that of Austria against Serbia, did not come until July 28th, and as late as August 3d, when Germany violated Belgian neutrality, it was expected that a general European conflagration would be avoided.

During that fateful month of July, while chancelleries received informations and sent out instructions, and while staffs of a dozen armies and navies worked over plans for mobilization, people in general went about their usual affairs. Business throughout the world was showing a healthy upturn from a long depression period; it was vacation time—this war scare would end as others before it had. And here are some of the things that came to pass before war flamed.

**B**EEF prices were rising and a German aviator named Linnekogel made a new world's altitude record of 21,450 feet. A Labor deputy in the Fourth Russian Duma, his name Alexander Kerensky, was declaring that that body was bankrupt politically, while the Czar was narrowly escaping assassination at Odessa.

The Cape Cod and Panama Canals were just about ready to accommodate ships, and a Norwegian aviator had just flown from Scotland to Norway, 320 miles, in four hours and ten minutes. It had been a disagreeably cold and rainy month in London, Paris, and along our North Atlantic coast, but Berlin had been having torrid weather, the thermometer on occasion hitting more than ninety in the shade. Americans were overrunning England and the Continent, and London's Savoy Hotel was publishing display advertisements in American newspapers advising that sixty of every hundred of its guests

*By*

*Alexander*

*Gardiner*

were Americans and that it would be advisable to cable or wireless for reservations.

British regular soldiers fired on a Dublin mob, killing four, and suffragettes raided Buckingham Palace in an attempt to present a petition to King George, while other votes-for-women crusaders slashed the Millais portrait of Carlyle in the National Gallery. The Kaiser was in the midst of a cruise to the North Capes, President Poincaré and Premier Viviani of France were returning from a mission to Russia, Herbert Hoover was resting in London and preparing to return to California to help on plans for the Panama-Pacific Exposition, and Franklin D. Roosevelt was making his political power felt in his home county of Dutchess in New York State: "It is now hinted," ran a dispatch to the *New York Times* from Poughkeepsie, "that all New York State appointments must have the approval of Mr. [F. D.] Roosevelt before they can get out of the White House." Former President Theodore Roosevelt was preparing to defend a libel suit brought against him by a New York political boss named William Barnes, and Secretary of State Bryan was taking a stand in favor of votes for women. President Wilson was hopeful that with former President Huerta of Mexico bound for Europe aboard a German warship, Francisco Villa would see the error of his ways and make his peace with President Carranza.

Almost simultaneous with publication of a report of a United States consular agent in England that "a simple and inexpensive machine for making a few pounds of ice would probably find a large sale" in his consular district came a story in a scientific publication that a household ice machine had been perfected. The consul had said that a machine requiring power would not be suitable, but the new-fangled contraption, alas, required electric current as well as chemicals. A Brooklyn motorboat made a new American speed record of 50.5 miles an hour, and the Automobile Club of America, aroused over the increasing multiplication of speed traps, was sending out bulletins to its members warning of specific places to be avoided. The motor vehicle commissioner of New Jersey was decrying the rising tide of automobile thefts and asking for legislation to curb use of automobiles in commission of crime. The high cost of living and Secretary Bryan's peace treaties caught cartoonists' fancy.

The locomotive engine was just a hundred years old, and Rodman Wanamaker's three-engine airboat, the *America*, had completed a successful flight on Long Island with a total load of 2600 pounds, as a preliminary to an attempt to cross the Atlantic. A somewhat slower but more certain passage to Europe could be bought in the steerage for \$20 on vessels of two steamship lines. The United States Government was bringing suit to force the dissolution of the New Haven Railroad as a monopoly, and passengers in thirty-five stage coaches in Yellowstone Park were held up by a couple of highwaymen who robbed them of \$3,000, had no objection to the use of cameras during the holdup, and escaped, at least temporarily, into the Jackson Hole country of Wyoming.

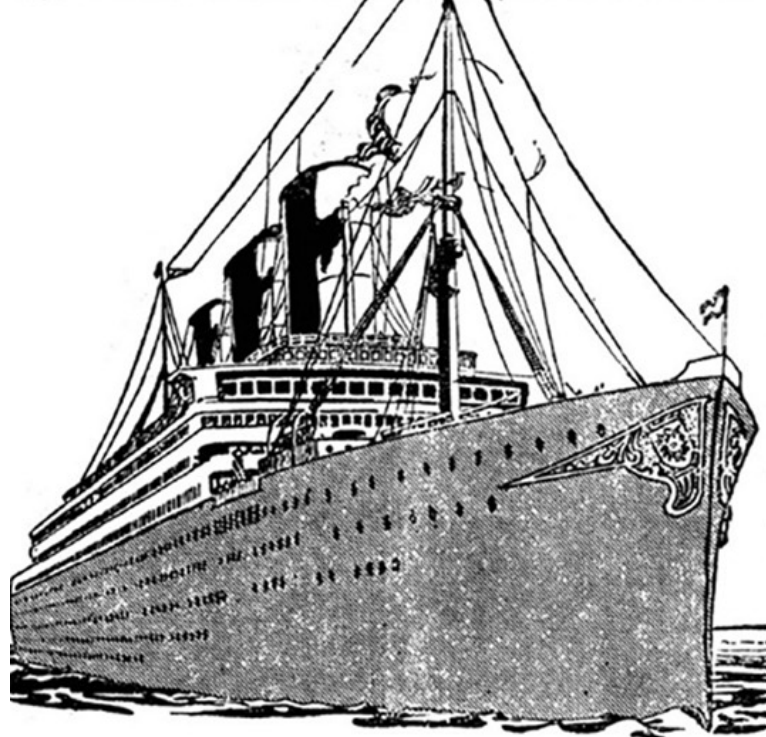
A new type of light summer suit for men was selling in New York for \$6.50. Women's skirts reached to the ankle, which should prove to today's younger generation that everything in fashions eventually comes back. The conventional bathing suit for women



S. S. Imperator, Hamburg American Line.



## HAMBURG-AMERICAN



World's Largest Ships  
Fastest to the Continent

—TO—

PARIS—LONDON—HAMBURG  
"VATERLAND" AUGUST 1  
TWELVE NOON  
"IMPERATOR" AUGUST 12  
NINE A. M.

Other sailings by the well-known steamers

PRES. GRANT, July 30, 10 A. M. | PENNSYLVANIA, Aug. 8, 12 Noon

FROM BOSTON "AMERIKA" AUGUST 1  
NINE A. M.

TO THE MEDITERRANEAN S. S. HAMBURG, AUG. 6, 11 A. M.  
HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE, 45 Broadway, N. Y.

*The German-American passenger liner, VATERLAND (top), was interned here and renamed LEVITHAN - during the war it took nearly 1,000 Yanks to France. The IMPERATOR, held in Germany, was turned over to the British by the peace conference and used to transport American troops home. It is now the BERENGARIA of the Cunard Line. The AMERIKA and HAMBURG became respectively the AMERICA and POW-HATAN, American troop-ships.*

of the leading newspapers of Montreal to comment, "It is singularly unfortunate that the first engagement of the Canadian navy should have to be directed against fellow British subjects on a vessel owned by Britain's only ally in all the world." Twelve hundred American surgeons were meeting in London, while at nearby Sulgrave Manor the United States Ambassador, Walter Hines Page, was receiving the keys of that ancestral home of the Washingtons in token of a hundred years of peace between Britain and America.

featured a cape, flounced skirt with attendant parasol, hat, stockings and slippers, but there was a hint that the type of beach wear known today was on the way in this item from a humor column of a newspaper: "SHE—I wonder where I can have put my bathing suit? HE—Why, you've got it on." Irene and Vernon Castle were the acknowledged leaders in ballroom dancing, a young actress named Elsie Janis was in Paris ready to go on in a play called, "The Girl on the Film," while the stage's outstanding juvenile, Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., was Broadway bound in "He Comes Up Smiling."

The Saxon Automobile Company of Detroit was advertising the Saxon car, which had successfully crossed the continent, to sell for \$395. The advertisement claimed thirty miles to the gallon, "catalogue and dealer's name on request." An original crayon drawing of Abraham Lincoln by Matthew B. Brady, the famous photographer of the Civil War, was sold for \$70.50 at a New York auction. "The Salamander," by Owen Johnson, was the best selling book in the United States.

Nineteen German schoolboys on a visit to London supplemented their Baedekers with copious notes, the while assuring the English press that they were not spies. A Paris jury found Mme. Caillaux, wife of a former premier, not guilty of murdering Gaston Calmette, editor of *Figaro*. The United States Navy's Mine Command Companies conducted a successful war test of submarines off Sandy Hook, exploding four mines and getting four hits. A Hindu ship carrying Hindu laborers bound for the wheat fields of western Canada was halted off Vancouver and forced to turn back by threats to fire on her, which led one

## *20 Years After*

The movies were making inroads on the legitimate stage and vaudeville. The bright stars of the screen were Mary Pickford and John Bunny, over-sized comedian. Ethel Barrymore, May Irwin and Gabys Deslys had taken the plunge into pictures. The top-run movies were "Cabiria," an Italian spectacle picture with a hero built on the lines of Primo Carnera; the thriller serial, "The Perils of Pauline," featuring Pearl White, and Annette Kellerman in "Neptune's Daughter." A new wrinkle that gave promise of livening the movies was provided in the film "Curse You, Jack Dalton," in which a monologist named Jack Gardner was creating something of a sensation. With the pictures projected from the back of the stage the monologist stood before the screen. "If he sees the fair haired heroine betraying signs of an intention to faint," ran one review of the picture, "he courteously suggests that she had better have a glass of water, which she proceeds to get forthwith. And when the villain becomes too intolerably villainous Mr. Gardner shoots him and the photograph wretch drops to the photograph floor, photograph dead."

Baseball was still the great American game, and here it was putting on a Cinderella show with the Boston National League team coming from last place after the Fourth of July to gain the pennant finally and in October, when the war was an old story, to triumph over the Philadelphia Athletics in four straight games. The mighty names of baseball were still Mathewson, Cobb, Wagner, Lajoie, Speaker, Crawford, Collins, Baker. And here in mid-July is an item from Boston: "Ruth, formerly of Baltimore, made his debut today as a local pitcher." The headline read "Ruth Batted Out by the Naps," but the Babe's team, the Red Sox, won from Cleveland, 4 to 3. Francis Ouimet of Boston, not quite yet a Legionnaire, was the open golf champion of America. Brookes and Wilding of Australasia were working their way to the challenge round of the Davis Cup in tennis. They were to take the cup from the United States, despite two smashing singles victories of Maurice McLoughlin, known as "the California Comet," in mid-August. And somewhat later that year McLoughlin was to yield the national singles championship to R. Norris Williams, 2d, a Legionnaire who in this year of 1934 is the non-playing captain of America's Davis Cup team.

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" was still the great show of "the road," but for this first war summer New York theatergoers were seeing "Potash and Perlmutter," "Ziegfeld Follies," "Passing Show of 1914," "Too Many Cooks," and "Kitty MacKay." In vaudeville the headliners were Joan Sawyer, Adelaide and Hughes, and Houdini. Harry Lauder was in Australia and booked for an American tour in the fall.

And what were the popular songs of that fateful summer?

"It's a Long Way to Tipperary" had been written two years before, but it was not until Kitchener's "Contemptibles" started crossing the Channel on their way to death and glory that it blossomed forth as the Tommies' favorite. Over here we were singing the "International Rag," "When You Wore a Tulip," "Can't You Hear Me Calling, Caroline?" "California

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and You," "By the Beautiful Sea," "This Is the Life," "Trail of the Lonesome Pine," "On the Old Fall River Line," "Good-bye, Boys," "There's a Girl in the Heart of Maryland," "You Made Me Love You," and "I Love the Ladies."

The Kaiser's fifth son was married on August first, which was the scheduled sailing date from New York of the Hamburg-American liner *Vaterland*, and from Boston of the *Amerika*. Other sailing dates of German ships were advertised thus: *Kronprinz Wilhelm*, August 4th, *George Washington*, August 8th, and *Kaiser Wilhelm II*, August 11th. Their sailing was postponed in each case, and you may have been a passenger on their next eastward journey some three years later, when they were respectively the United States Transports *Leviathan*, *America*, *Von Steuben*, *George Washington* and *Agamemnon*.

Twenty years ago—and it seems like the day before yesterday.



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