

General Kuropatkin and Russia's Other Commanders; The Captains Who Will Win or Lose the War For Russia

THE personal equation enters nowhere more largely than into military affairs. As is the general, so is the army. Under a Napoleon the French overran all Europe. Under the incompetent commanders of the second empire they became the laughing stock of the world.

General Kuropatkin received most of his training as chief of staff of the renowned Skobelev. In the trenches about Plevna the two men fought side by side until they came to be known as "the great white general" and "the little black brother." Later, when Skobelev was raging against the Turkish, he got into a tight place and sent for Kuropatkin to help him out. It was then that the younger man made a march across central Asia that for exciting adventure has seldom been surpassed in history. Afterward came the siege and storming of Geok Tepe, the two Russians savagely gave orders that no quarter be given to woman or child, a command that was so literally followed that 20,000 of the enemy were slaughtered.

General Alexei Nikolaevich Kuropatkin comes of noble family and was born fifty-six years ago. At the age of eighteen, he had finished the course at the military academy and asked to go for active duty in Asia. Later he took another military course in Paris, at which time he was made a member of the Legion of Honor.



Kuropatkin was called to St. Petersburg and was given an office in the war department, with which he has been connected in some capacity from that day to the present. In 1898 he became minister of war.

In person he is rather short and stockily built, with slightly grizzled hair and beard. He is democratic in his habits and a capital extempore and story teller. It is said that in battle he thinks nothing of slapping a private soldier on the back for some brave action or inviting him to headquarters for a drink of vodka.

His bravery is shown by the fact that

he carries wounds all over his body. He is perhaps as proud of these as of his numberless medals, of which he has more than enough to cover his broad chest. The latest decoration he received was the diamond cross which was bestowed on him by the czar just prior to Kuropatkin's departure for the far east.

Lieutenant General Linevitch, who will be General Kuropatkin's chief assistant in the operations against Japan, was prior to the latter's appointment in supreme command of the Russian forces in Manchuria. Linevitch, who is sixty-six years old, fought with great

bravery in the Caucasus in 1859 and also gained fame under Skobelev at Plevna, being made a colonel and given the golden sword of honor. In 1889 he took charge of the Transcaucasian rifle brigade. In the invasion of China by the allies in 1900 he was in command of the Russians; also, because of seniority, he was the ranking officer of the Japanese, American, British and French troops. He thus came in close touch with his present foes and had under him the two famous Japanese generals, Yamaguchi and Fukushima.

In America only one man may hold the title of lieutenant general as only

one man may be vice president. In Russia there are several. Lieutenant general, Anatol Michaelovitch Stoessel is one of these. He is of German extraction, as his name indicates, but he was born in Russia. He entered the army as a member of the engineer corps. Like Kuropatkin and Linevitch, he got his start toward fame in the war with Turkey. He was also in the Chinese war of 1900, where he played an important part in the capture of Tientsin, his command crossing a pontoon bridge in a dangerous position and capturing a number of batteries, though not without heavy loss. At

present General Stoessel is in command of Port Arthur. It was he that recently made the sensational request for all noncombatants to leave the city, as he, the commandant, would never give the order to surrender.

The Grand Duke Nicholas, who has also gone to the front, is the inspector general of cavalry and will command that arm of the service in the present war. Kuropatkin is more of an infantry specialist and for that reason will depend upon Nicholas, who, although only forty-seven years of age, is already renowned as a cavalry expert, to look after the famous Cossacks.

General Zilinsky, Kuropatkin's chief of staff, is younger than the veteran commanders before mentioned, but is an active and able officer with special training as a tactician.

General Baron Stackelburg will have command of the northern army about Vladivostok. He should not be confused with the admiral of the same name who was formerly in command of the Vladivostok fleet. General Linevitch will be in command of the central army about the Yalu and General Stoessel will have charge of the southern army about Port Arthur.

Grand Duke Sergius, who has recently been made a major general, succeeds his father in command of the artillery wing of the army. Sergius has devoted his entire life to the study of the artillery arm and is known as the leading machine gun specialist in Russia. He will assume active command of the artillery in the far east.

Grand Duke Boris, the second son of Vladimir and a possible successor to the throne of Russia, has gone to the front with his regiment, the Golden Hussars. Boris is still a young man and is considered the most brilliant of the sons of Vladimir.

Prince Louis Napoleon, a claimant to the throne of France, is a Russian cavalry colonel and is now in active service in Manchuria.

In spite of ill health, Grand Duke Alexis is now at the front. He is the nominal commander in chief of the Russian navy, even ranking Makarov. It is probable that Alexis will only give general direction to the maritime cam-

paign, however, and will leave the actual command to Makarov. The career of Alexis as high admiral has been brilliant in a social and administrative way, though he has seen little actual service.

Vice Admiral Makarov, now in command of the Port Arthur fleet, is chiefly distinguished for his inventions. These are all in the naval line. One of them, a sort of buffer to break the force of collisions, is in use all over the world. The most famous, however, is his ice breaker, now employed in Vladivostok and all Russian ports. Several years ago Admiral Makarov proposed to use his ice breaking ship, the Ernak, in an effort to reach the north pole. The trial was made, but afterward abandoned. He did succeed, however, in releasing a number of vessels imprisoned in the arctic seas.

Makarov previous to being sent to the far east was in command at Cronstadt. He has twice visited America and is an admirer of the push and energy of the Yankees. He is very democratic in his disposition. The admiral is a large, fine looking man, with a beard that is a wonder even among the Russians, with whom the whisker is a national institution. His predecessor, Admiral Starck, owing to a few unhappy circumstances in the shape of Jap torpedoes, did not leave much for Makarov to command, but with his native resourcefulness it is certain that the present commandant at Port Arthur will make the most of a bad situation.

Captain Boltzenstein, who is in command of the Russian fleet at Vladivostok, was only in charge of a single vessel until the recall of Admiral Stackelburg, left an entire squadron on his hands.

Grand Duke Cyril, cousin of the czar, who has been serving on board the Askold and has participated in some of the actions about Port Arthur, has been appointed an aid to Admiral Makarov.

The sending of such a corps of distinguished officers to the front would indicate that the St. Petersburg government recognizes the seriousness of the struggle.

THADDEUS C. RHETT.

The Genesis and Motive of Russia's Territorial Policy; Ideals of Peter the Great and Their Modern Evolution

TO gain an intelligent appreciation of Russia's policy in the far east, which is the sole cause of the war with Japan, it is necessary to look at things from the Russian point of view. It is essential also to recognize the fact that the advance into Manchuria is but a step, an incident, in a persistently followed programme. To arrive at the genesis of this programme requires a look into the history, into the religion and into the ideals of the Slav people.

Back of all things Russian stands the giant figure of Peter the Great. He it was that created the modern Russian empire. He outlined its policy, gave direction to its energy, awakened in it a national ideal. There is some question as to the authenticity of the legend Peter is said to have left for the guidance of his successors; there is no doubt as to its having been followed.

Briefly stated by an enemy of Russia, the policy laid down by Peter is as follows: "Russia to be always on a war footing; to keep up jealousies in Poland with a view to interference in her affairs and ultimate conquest; to rob Sweden of as much territory as possible and always make it appear that Sweden is the aggressor; to acquire Finland and Lapland; to advance to Constantinople; to ally herself with Austria and France against Germany; to press toward the Persian gulf and India."

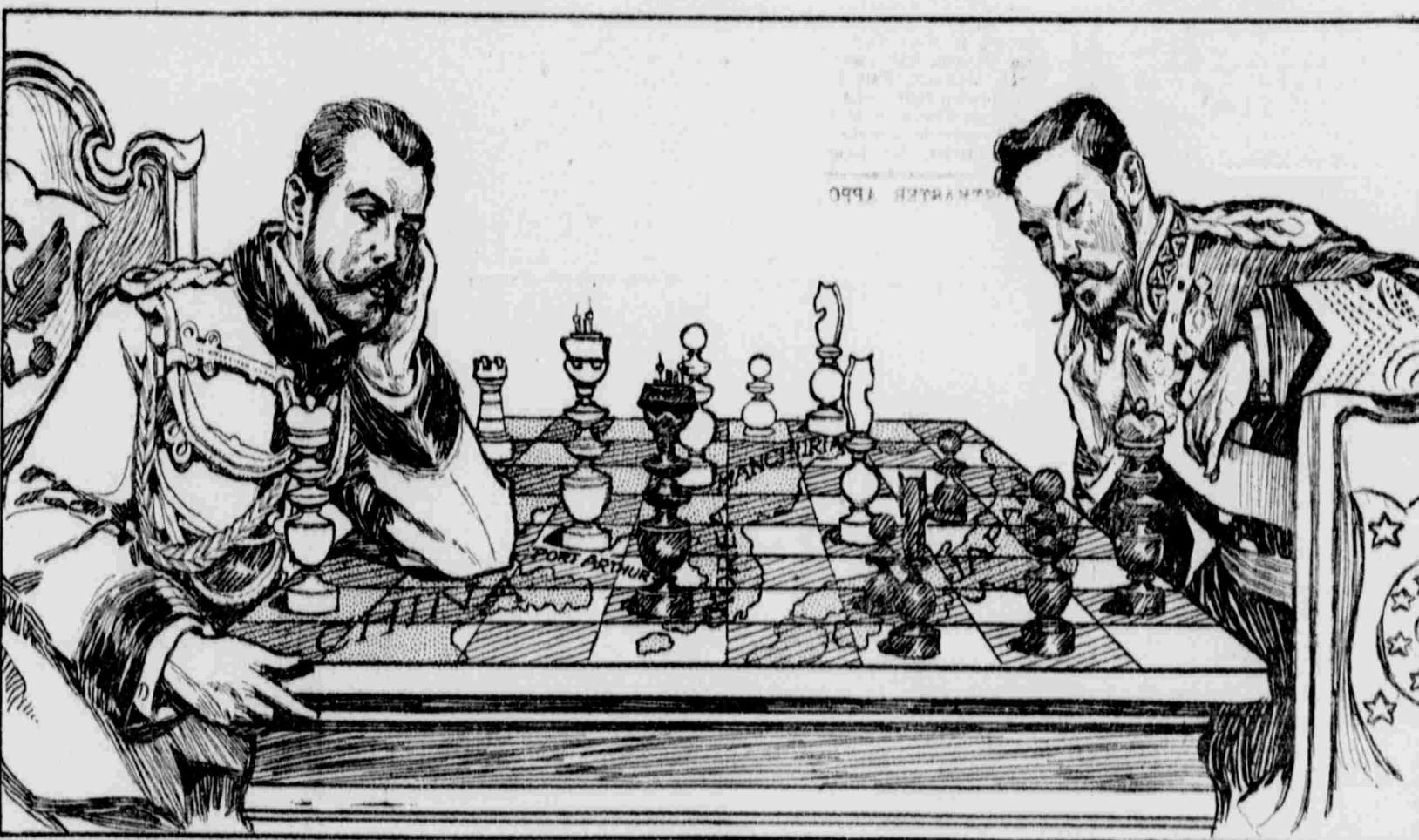
When it is remembered that this remarkable man lived nearly three centuries ago the prophetic insight he displayed and the fidelity with which his plans have been carried out seem almost remarkable. Sweden's lands have been taken, Poland has been absorbed, and that by the exact process outlined;

great slices have been cut from Turkey's territory, and Constantinople would have been captured in 1878 had it not been for the interference of Great Britain; substantial advances have been made in the direction of the Persian gulf and India, and both would have been reached long ere this had not this same Great Britain blocked the way.

The invasion of Manchuria was not in the programme of Peter. It evidently came as an afterthought, brought about by the partial failure to reach a warm water outlet through the Mediterranean sea and the Indian ocean.

"This struggle for an ice free port is the excuse now given by Russia for her policy. She is like a man with a great farm, she says, who has no means of reaching the main road except by getting a not friendly neighbor's permission to jump over his fence and then making a long and roundabout circuit through a lane. The Baltic is frozen up nearly half the year; the Caspian is, of course, utterly useless; the Black sea is almost as bad, for the port will not give his permission to go through the Dardanelles. England bolstered up the decaying kingdom of Persia and thus defeated the benevolent intentions of the bear to gather in that ancient and fertile land, and with it control of the Persian gulf. Thus the czar's government, still according to its own version, was forced to build a long and expensive railroad through Siberia and Manchuria and to lease from China the two warm water harbors of Port Arthur and Dalay. And now because this last possible outlet has been taken England's ally, Japan, is kicking up a disturbance."

Out of the present situation looms up another very important fact not foreseen by Peter. He desired an alliance with Austria and France against Germany. Now Russia's great foe is no longer Germany, but England. The



THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR GAME.

Muscovite bear has pushed his advance in many directions, each time to be greeted by a warning snarl from the British lion. Then his bearship stopped. In this connection the examination of a map of central Asia reveals an interesting condition. At one point the ever

advancing Russian frontier is less than 200 miles from British India. Afghanistan is the little buffer land lying between, and once, when England had her hands full with other matters, the Cossacks innocently began to crowd down upon the Afghans until the government

at London grew uneasy and called a halt. It may be added that lying somewhere in the archives at St. Petersburg is a well elaborated plan for the invasion of India, the author of which is no less a man than General Kuropatkin, the present commander in chief of the

land forces in the far east. In the event that the bear gets the better of the nimble Jap it is not impossible that England some day will have to reckon with this plan or some similar one, for Russia has several old scores to settle. Besides, the Muscovite may conclude

that he wants other warm water ports and, incidentally, the land thereto appertaining.

As a matter of fact the motive for Russian aggression lies much deeper than a mere desire for an open sea outlet. This is the inner, not the cause. Nor, in the opinion of the closest students of the Slavic character and ideals, is land hunger the only reason for the Russian advance. To get at the underlying motive it is necessary to hear it from the lips of the Russian people themselves. They freely talk of it, the Muscovite dream of controlling all Asia. At heart the Russian is deeply and fervently religious. He believes the Greek church is the simon pure representative of Christianity. To conquer all Asia for "holy Russia" and for her religion, to convert China, to drive Mohammedanism from the face of the earth and to restore the cross in Palestine—nothing less than this is the secretly cherished motive of the actuating minds of the Russian empire, for in the land of the Slav church and state are one. The czar is the nominal head of both. But the real head of the church is just now an able combination of priest and statesman known as Pobedonostseff. If one would learn the real motive back of things Russian he could find it better in the mind of this man than by interviewing either czar or cabinet.

The Russian is always gregarious. He intermingles readily with other peoples, learns their language, their customs, makes them one with himself. If he must fight them he strikes hard, giving no quarter and expecting none. But when war is ended he is hearty, kindly, jovial. More than all, he understands the Asiatic character. It is these qualities which have helped him to win his way in the east, and it is by these qualities that he hopes eventually to make China and all Asia his own.

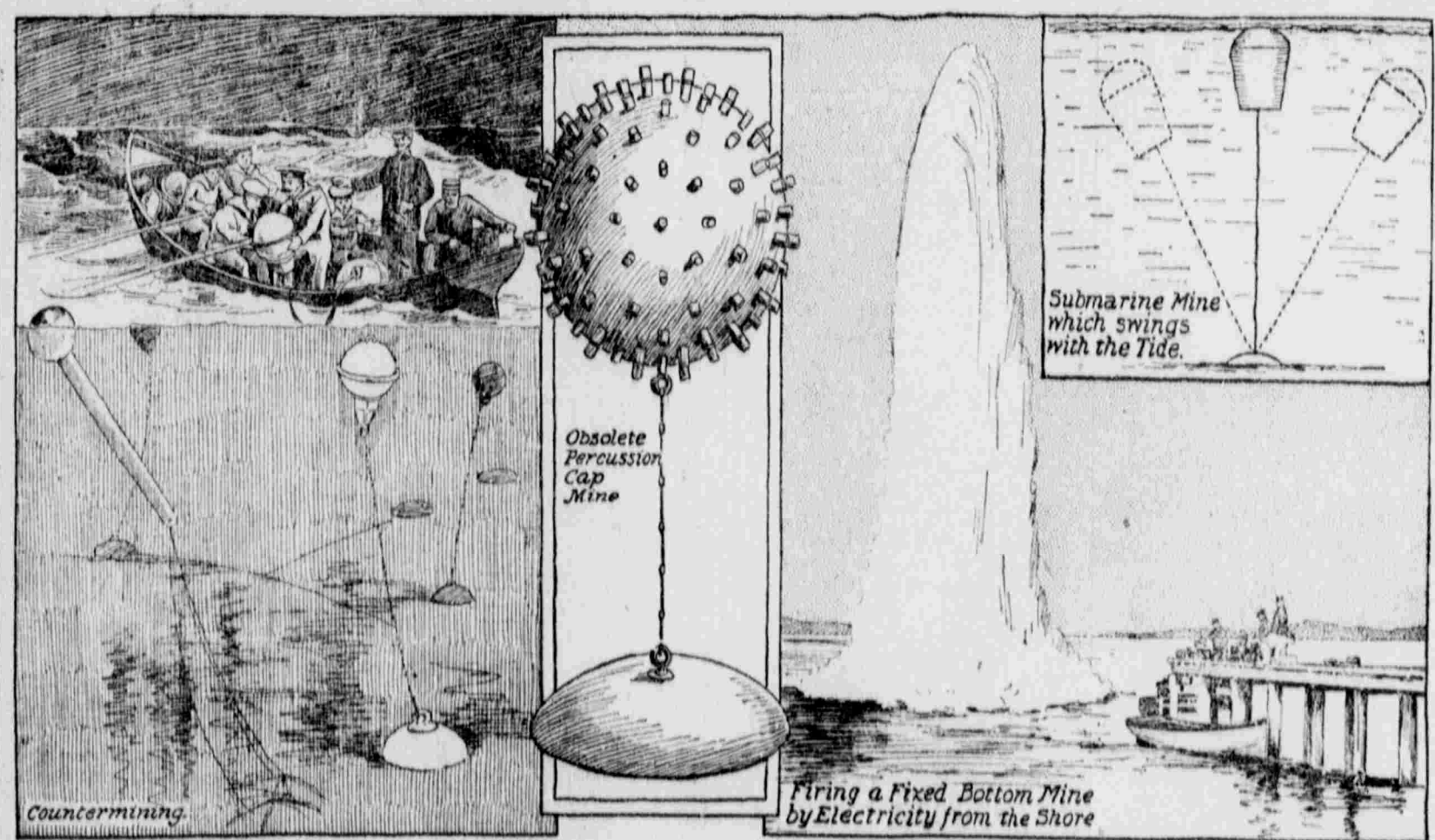
CHESTER MURRAY QUENTIN.

The Submarine Mine and Countermine In Modern Warfare; Hidden Engines of Destruction That Line Naval Harbors

THE confident claim of Russia that she has protected Port Arthur, Vladivostok and other ports in the far east by a complete system of submarine mines, the counter attack of the Japanese to bottle up the Russian Port Arthur fleet by planting additional mines in the entrance to the harbor and the blowing up of the ill fated Russian "mining transport" Yezhov by the accidental explosion of one of the engines of destruction intended for the enemy all serve to call attention to this distinct branch of modern naval warfare.

While the submarine mine is kindred to the torpedo as a destructive agency, the two should not be confused. The line of demarcation between them lies in the fact that a torpedo is in the shape of a projectile, while the mine is anchored and hence stationary. Another distinction is that the torpedo is employed as a weapon of attack in offensive operations, while the mine is almost wholly defensive.

Submarine mines are of three classes—first, observation mines that are fired by an operator on shore when the enemy's ship is seen to be in the danger area; second, electro contact mines, which are connected with the shore, but are fired by the ship striking the mine and thus completing the circuit; third, mechanical mines, which have no connection, but are exploded by detonating caps, firing pins or other chemical or mechanical contrivance set off by the impact of the ship's hull.



Countermining.

seals. The second class can be rendered harmless by the current being broken on shore. These two classes are anchored so that they are near the surface of the water. Because they actually touch the ship they do not re-

quire no large an explosive charge as the first class that are anchored forty or fifty feet below the surface. Mines, again, are divided into two classes, known as "ground mines" which lie on the sea bottom, and "buoyant

mines," which are anchored by means of a cable some distance from the bottom. Contact mines are all buoyant. Observation mines are either ground or buoyant. Where a system of observation mines are connected and fired by

structed of any material that will keep out the water, though steel is preferred. The explosive used in nearly all cases is gun cotton, that being less sensitive, hence less dangerous in handling, than dynamite. The size of the charge runs all the way from 50 to 300 pounds, some of the largest observation mines even exceeding this amount. The shape of the mine is usually round or spherical, as it is found that the tides have less effect on those forms.

The method of firing the mechanical contact mine consists in most cases of a number of detonator caps distributed over the surface in such fashion that it is impossible for a ship to strike the mine without discharging one of the caps, which in turn blows up—but that is another story. At any rate the average mine seems to recent being run over.

The firing of an observation mine is a much more difficult matter. In the first place, it is necessary for the operator to have the mine field thoroughly platted. In the second place, he must have accurate range finders to determine the location of the vessel or vessels he wishes to destroy. Then, if the ship is rapidly moving, it is essential to so time the discharge that the vessel is caught when it is exactly over the mine. When the additional difficulties of allowing for the movements of the tides and currents are taken into consideration the task is seen to be one that requires the utmost nicety of calculation and the greatest promptitude of execution. Besides all this, the operator must be in a position where he can see the surface of the entire harbor, and yet his location must not be known to the enemy, otherwise a few well directed shots might put him and his apparatus out of business.

There are three methods of rendering mines ineffective. The one most commonly in use is known as "countermining." This consists in planting a number of mines in close proximity to those already planted, then by exploding these to explode the entire field. Such a process is rather hazardous in time of war. It is usually undertaken under cover of night. A boat made expressly for the purpose steams as close as possible without being discovered, then boldly makes a run for the field, drops the mines overhead, and when out of range they are all set off simultaneously. The water is thrown up in dazzling columns of light as the tons of gun cotton in the mines and countermines explode together in a deafening roar.

Another method for an enemy to render ineffective a mine field is called "creeping." Grapnels are used for this work. In the foremost grapnel is a small charge of two or three pounds of gun cotton. When one of the wires leading to the mines is encountered the charge is set off and the wire destroyed or badly injured. Then the second grapnel completes the work. Sometimes the wires are picked up until the main ganglion is discovered, when the whole group of mines may be harmlessly discharged.

The submarine mine is practically the invention of Robert Fulton, who was likewise the author of the torpedo. The mine was used in a very limited way in the Crimean war. It was employed quite extensively by the Confederates in the American civil conflict and did effective work in blowing up a number of Federal boats. The most famous case of destruction wrought by one of these hidden engines is that of the blowing up of the United States battleship Maine in Havana harbor.

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