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## XIV. German "Total Blockade" Area

(New York Times, August 19, 1941)

The total blockade area is defined as follows:

From the French Atlantic coast at 37 degrees 30 minutes North Longitude and 2 degrees 40 minutes West Latitude to a point 45 degrees north 5 degrees west, thence westward to a point 45 degrees north and 20 degrees west, thence northward to a point 58 degrees north, 20 degrees west, thence eastward to a point 62 degrees north, 3 degrees east, and southward to the Belgian coast. From the Belgian coast the zone follows the French coast along the Channel and the Atlantic to Lorient, which is approximately the starting point.

Authoritative German quarters insisted that proclamation of the total blockade could not be compared with the declaration in the World War of unrestricted submarine warfare.

"This blockade, directed only against England, is based on entirely different reasons from the decisions taken in the World War," it was said. "It is impossible, therefore, to draw a parallel with unrestricted U-boat warfare. Today other weapons play a far more important role than U-boats.

"It would likewise be incorrect to speak of sinking without warning. This is too general a statement. Germany will adhere to the general principles of international law in exercising the blockade, but it must be remembered that many rules of naval warfare were drawn up in the days of sailing ships, before steamships, submarines and airplanes were in general use."

Commenting on the blockade proclamation, the Foreign Office commentary, *Diplomatisch-Politische Korrespondenz*, tonight says:

"It is obvious that the war zone around England, in which all the most modern weapons are being used in active com-

bat, must henceforth be avoided by all who do not wish to come in contact with the horrors of war. In this respect there is no difference between the battlefields of the sea and those on land. Whoever places himself in such danger not only acts with frivolity, but virtually seeks death and destruction."