

April 7, 1940

FIRST REICH ENVOY SINCE 1907 IN CITY

Official's Presence Here Three Months Remains Mystery

Philadelphia woke up yesterday to the fact that Germany, for the first time in 33 years, has put the city on its diplomatic map—a dot with a circle around it.

Why the Nazi regime should have seen fit to accredit this seaport city, now that its trade with the Reich is virtually dead, remained a mystery, but the fact remained that since January, the German consular offices here have been occupied by nothing less than an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

PRESENCE UNNOTICED

Previously, Germany had been represented here by an honorary consul.

The new envoy is Erich Windels, German Minister to Canada until the outbreak of the current war. He arrived here so quietly, nearly three months ago, that his presence at the Drake went completely unnoticed. He vanished again for a brief stay at Pinehurst a few weeks later, leaving none the wiser until his return.

Middle-aged, partly bald, he has gray eyes that sparkle when he smiles, and a sharp nose and thin lips. Rimless spectacles give him the look of an American businessman, and his faultless English never betrays it. His duties so far, Windels said, have been purely routine. Asked why his Government had sent him here, he commented:

"Our Governments do not usually give us reasons—just orders."