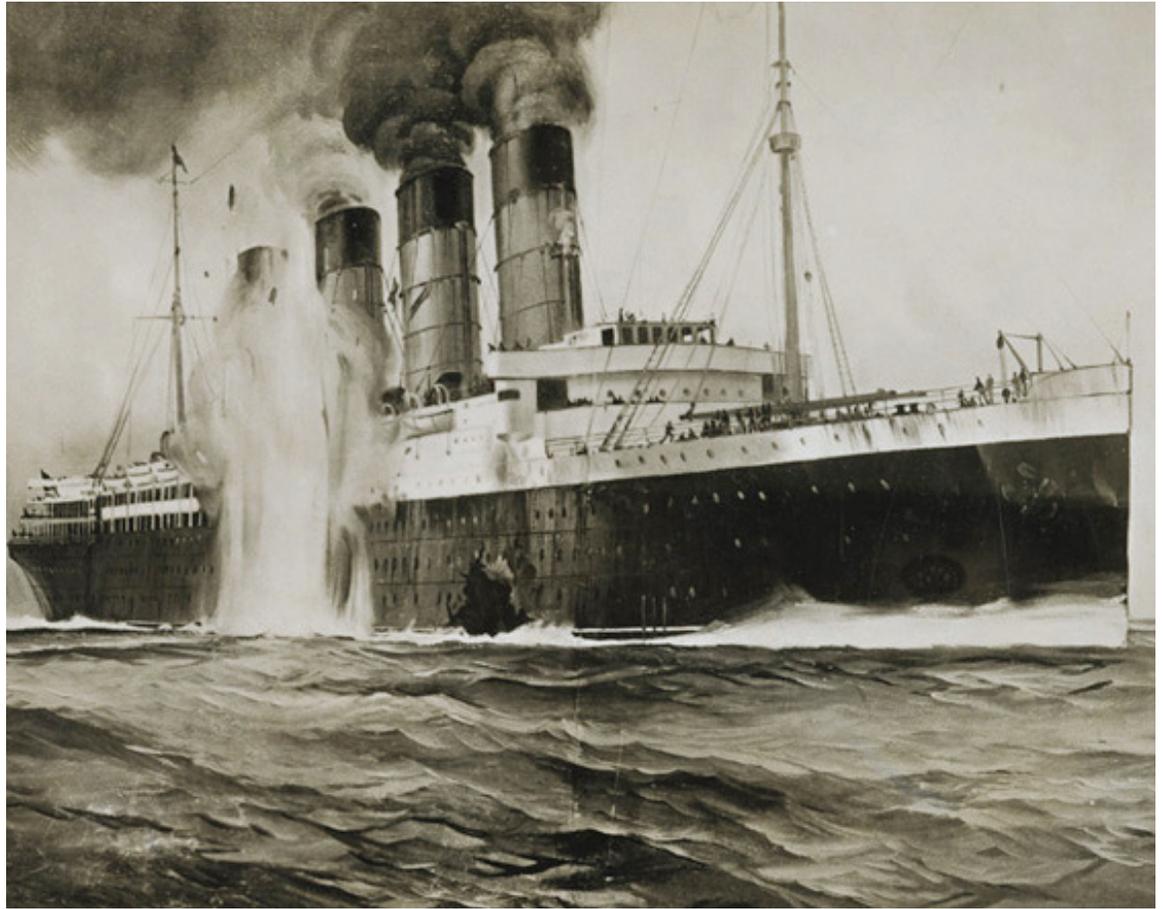


LUSITANIA SUNK!



British Boat Sunk by German U-Boat!

By Allen Williamson - Associated Press

Yesterday, the cruise ship the Lusitania was sunk off the coast of England by a German U-boat. The Lusitania, a British cruise liner, had 1,959 people on board including the crew members who were in charge of taking care of the boat.

The voyage started in New York, and was supposed to end in Liverpool, England. The boat was moving very quickly through out the entire journey.

Yesterday morning, May 17, 1915, the Lusitania was getting very close to its destination in Liverpool. The captain slowed the ship down to prepare for the landing. Naval and boat expert John Anderson says, "When the Lusi-

tania slowed down, the boat was left open to attacks from the German U-Boats."

The Lusitania was hit in the morning hours, and sunk in only 18 minutes. Some experts think that the Lusitania sunk so fast because it was carrying weapons for the British army. When the torpedo hit the area that the weapons were being stored, the gun powder might have ignited, starting a fire and increasing the speed that the boat sank.

The number of deaths from the attack are not known, but it is believed to be in the thousands. Some of those are Americans. Because Americans died, some people in the United States are

calling for the U.S. to declare war on Germany for killing innocent people.

A Congressman from Georgia said, "We can not let this event go unanswered, we must defend and honor all Americans. We must go to war!"

This tragic event is one of the worst sea disasters of all time. Innocent women and children were killed. This may lead to the U.S. entering the war on the side of the Allied Powers trying to beat the Central Powers.

President Wilson had these comments, "We must honor the dead Americans who lost their lives."

Questions about the article:

1. What country was the Lusitania from? _____
2. How many people were on board the Lusitania? About how many people died? _____
3. Why did the Lusitania explode so quickly?

4. What effect might the sinking of Lusitania have on the United States?

5. Why did the Georgia Congressman want to enter World War I?

6. If you were president of the United States, would you want to enter World War I after Americans lost their lives during the sinking of the Lusitania? Why or Why not?
