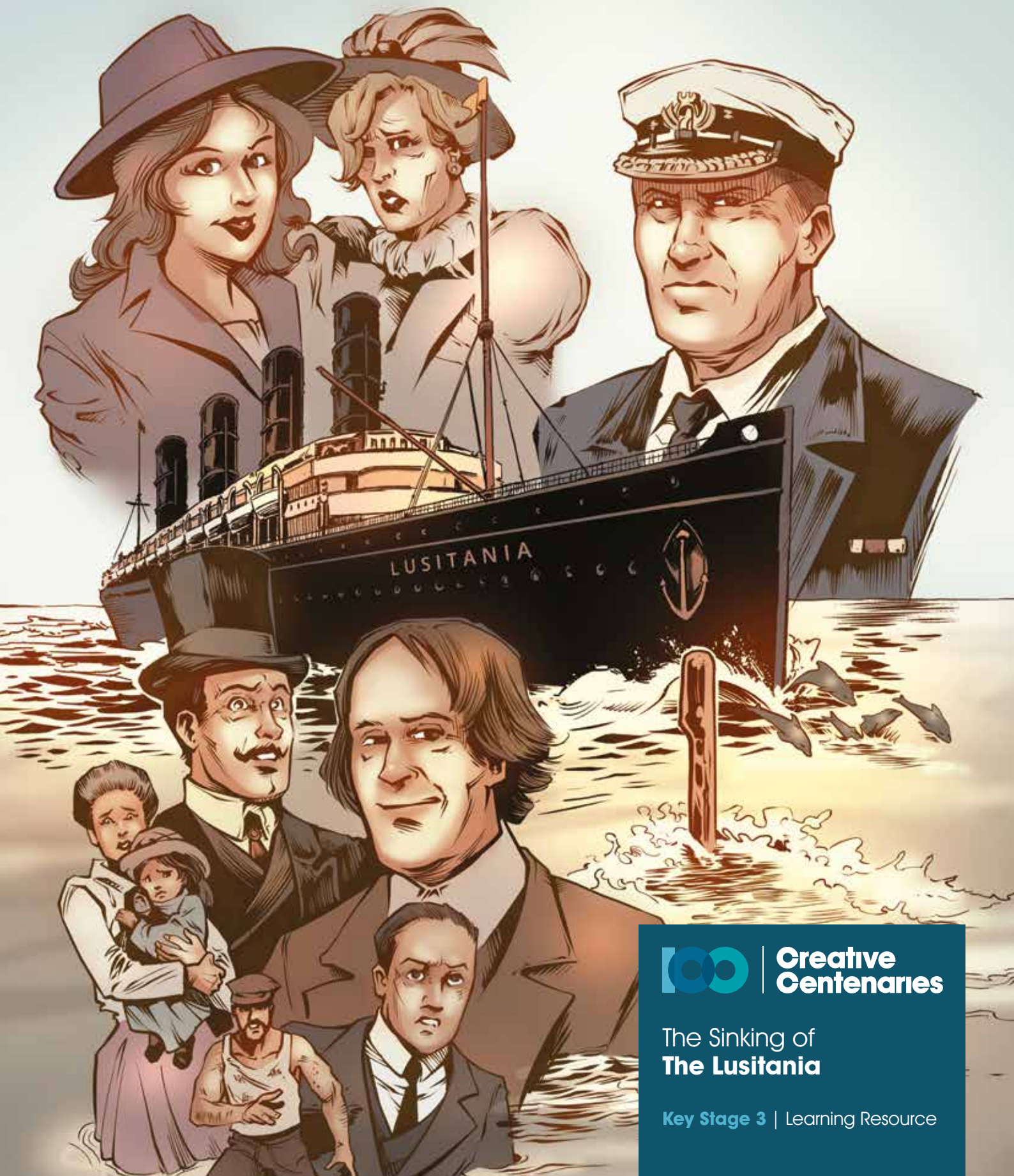


THE SINKING OF THE LUSITANIA



**Creative
Centenaries**

The Sinking of
The Lusitania

Key Stage 3 | Learning Resource

About

The Creative Centenaries project, led by the Nerve Centre, brings together information and resources about the Decade of Centenaries and the work of Northern Ireland's creative sector in commemorating these events. From digital storytelling to educational resources to a sharing of knowledge and expertise, Creative Centenaries brings a fresh approach to the study and memory of one of Ireland's most defining periods.

This graphic novel has been funded by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

With thanks to the team at Uproar Comics, historical consultant Richard Doherty and National Museums Northern Ireland.

For more information and to access a range of innovative educational resources around the Decade of Centenaries, see www.creativecentenaries.org.





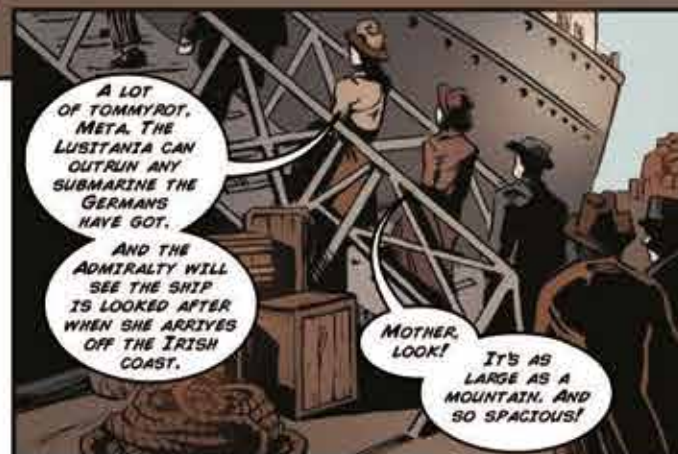
...THE RMS LUSITANIA!

THE LARGEST, FASTEST, MOST LUXURIOUS SHIP IN THE WORLD AT THE TIME OF HER LAUNCH...

PIER 54, NEW YORK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE ARE TRAVELLING IN SUCH LUXURY, MOTHER...

...BUT DID YOU SEE THE WARNING IN THE NEWSPAPER FROM THE GERMAN EMBASSY?



A LOT OF TOMMYROT, META. THE LUSITANIA CAN OUTRUN ANY SUBMARINE THE GERMANS HAVE GOT.

AND THE ADMIRALTY WILL SEE THE SHIP IS LOOKED AFTER WHEN SHE ARRIVES OFF THE IRISH COAST.

MOTHER, LOOK!

IT'S AS LARGE AS A MOUNTAIN, AND SO SPACIOUS!



WAIT UNTIL WE GO INSIDE, I HAVE HEARD THE DINING ROOM IS MOST ELEGANT.

MORE LIKE A FIRST CLASS HOTEL THAN A SHIP.

BUT I'M STILL WORRIED...

I CAN'T WAIT TO TRY THE FOOD!



WHAT IF THE GERMANS TRY AND...

FORGET ALL THE TALK OF TORPEDOING AND ENJOY THE VOYAGE.

ALL SOULS WILL ARRIVE IN LIVERPOOL...



...SAFE AND SOUND.



THE LOUNGE ABOARD THE LUSITANIA...

ALL ASHORE THAT'S GOING ASHORE!

NOT LONG NOW UNTIL WE SET OFF.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE WHOLE FAMILY BACK IN LIMAVADY.

I'LL MISS AMERICA, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN A YEAR. TIME GOES SO FAST, MOTHER.



WINE, MISTER VANDERBILT?



YES PLEASE!

OH MY WE'RE IN GOOD COMPANY ON THIS VOYAGE! DO YOU KNOW WHO THAT IS?



IT'S ALFRED VANDERBILT, THE HEIR TO THE VANDERBILT RAILROADING EMPIRE AND A PLAYBOY TO BOOT!

SOME SAY HE IS WORTH 100 MILLION DOLLARS.

HE INTERESTS ME NOT!



ALSO ON BOARD WERE JOURNALIST ERNEST "JACK" COWPER, WHO WROTE FOR THE SATIRICAL JACK CANUCK NEWSPAPER...

...HE MARCHED RIGHT INTO THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING ON MY BEHALF!

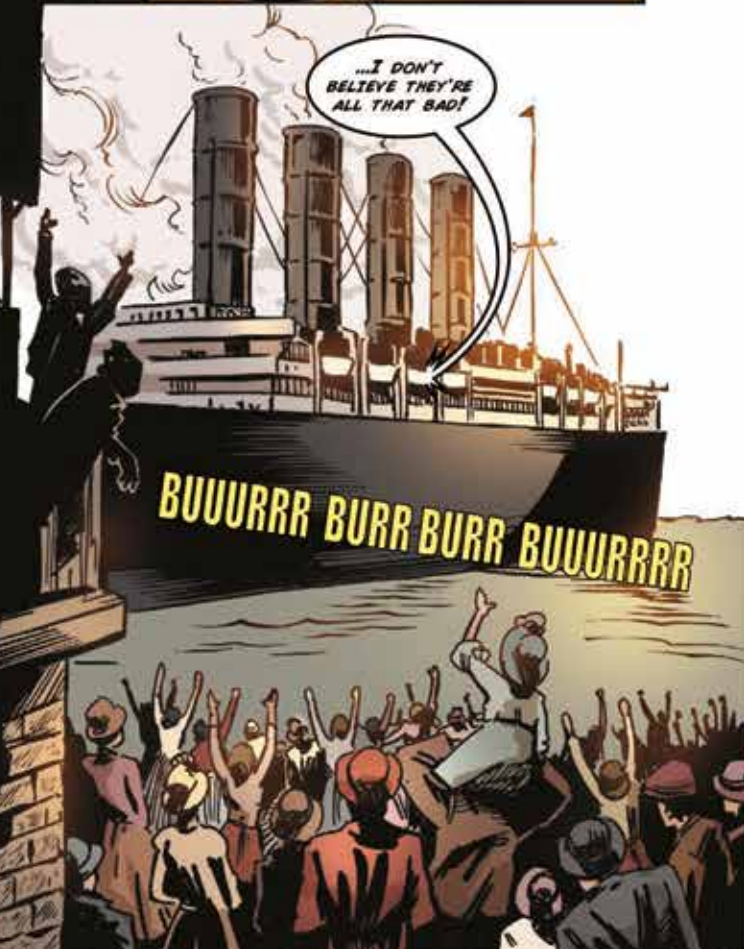
...AND THE FLAMBOYANT AMERICAN WRITER ELBERT HUBBARD, WITH HIS WIFE ALICE.



AN INTERESTING STORY, MISTER HUBBARD!

SO WHAT BRINGS YOU ABOARD THE LUSITANIA?

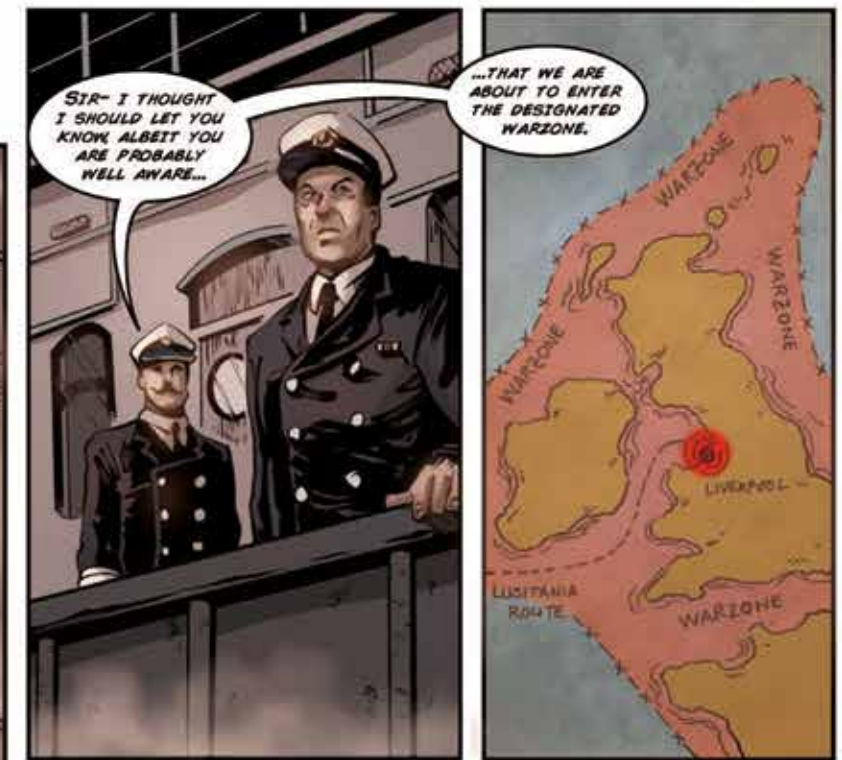
WELL, JACK, BELIEVE ME OR NOT...





MAY 7TH, 1:40PM

A FEW HOURS FROM THEIR DESTINATION.











THE BODIES OF VICTIMS AND DEBRIS WASHED UP ON THE SHORE OF OLD HEAD OF KINSALE ALONG WITH THE LIFEBOATS OF SURVIVORS.



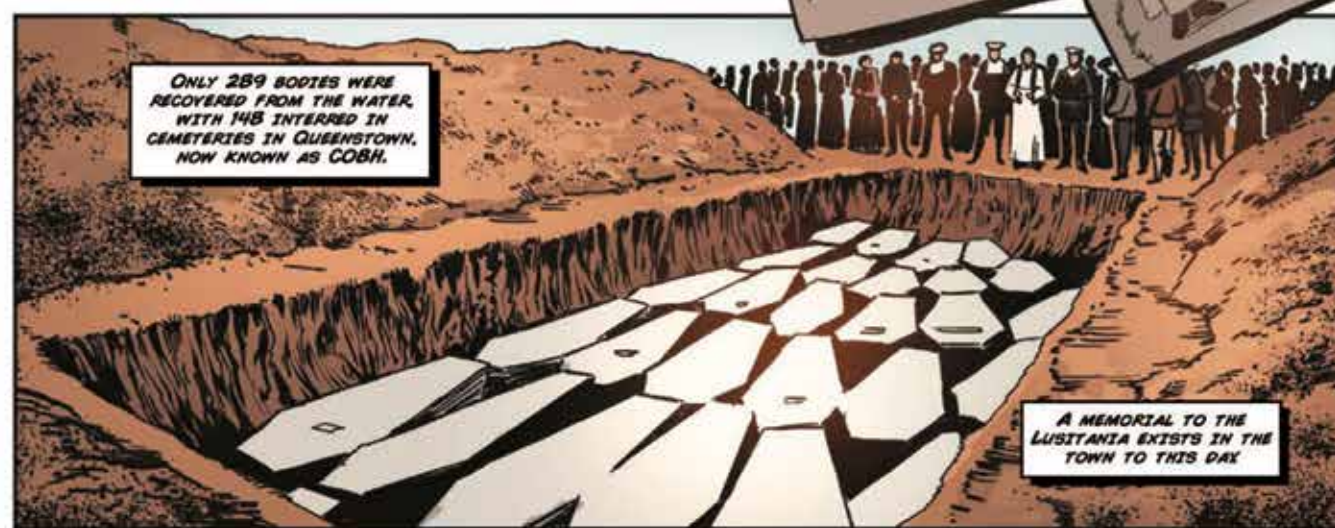
THE SURVIVORS WERE HELPED BY LOCAL IRISH PEOPLE. THERE WERE MANY ACTS OF HEROISM BY SURVIVORS AND RESCUERS ALIKE TO SAVE AS MANY LIVES AS POSSIBLE.



LOCAL FISHERMEN WERE EVEN PAID TO RECOVER THE DEAD OUT OF THE WATERS.



OF THE 1,960 PASSENGERS AND CREW ABOARD THE LUSITANIA 1,193 WERE LOST.



ONLY 289 BODIES WERE RECOVERED FROM THE WATER, WITH 148 INTERRED IN CEMETERIES IN QUEENSTOWN, NOW KNOWN AS COBH.

A MEMORIAL TO THE LUSITANIA EXISTS IN THE TOWN TO THIS DAY

MANY NATIONS AND PEOPLES WERE REPRESENTED ON BOARD THE LUSITANIA INCLUDING BRITISH, IRISH, GREEKS, BELGIANS, FRENCH, CUBAN, AND MANY AMERICANS...



128 AMERICANS DIED INCLUDING ELBERT HUBBARD AND ALFRED VANDERBILT.

NEWS SPREAD QUICKLY AND THERE WAS OUTCRY ACROSS THE WORLD ESPECIALLY IN THE UK AND AMERICA.



MANY PEOPLE WERE ANGRY AT THE GERMANS FOR THE ATTACK.

THE ANTI-GERMAN SENTIMENT WAS USED AS PROPAGANDA TO ENLIST PEOPLE TO FURTHER THE WAR EFFORT. AMERICAN OUTRAGE PUT PRESSURE ON THE GERMAN KAISER TO APOLOGISE FOR THE SINKING AND PROMISE TO AVOID ANY SIMILAR OCCURRENCE IN THE FUTURE. EVENTUALLY THE SINKING LED TO THE CHANGE OF NAVAL LAW (PRIZE RULES) OF CONDUCT AND WAS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY AMERICA ENTERED THE WAR IN 1917.

META SURVIVED AND RETURNED HOME TO LIMAVADY.



THE DISASTER WAS THOUGHT TO BE A MILITARY VICTORY IN GERMANY AND A MEDAL WAS PRODUCED BY A GERMAN CITIZEN TO MARK THE ATTACK. THE DESIGN WAS COPIED IN BRITAIN FOR PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS.



Biographies

All of the characters mentioned throughout this story were real people on board the RMS *Lusitania* during its final voyage.



Martha and Meta Moody

70 year old Martha and 38 year old Meta were from Limavady in County Londonderry and were returning home after spending a year in America having visited Martha's brother in San Francisco, California. Meta survived the sinking of the ship but her mother Martha perished and her body was never recovered.



Ernest Cowper

Toronto journalist Ernest Cowper was also travelling to Europe to become a war correspondent. Despite travelling as a second-class passenger, Cowper often crossed into the first-class saloon to interview and talk with Elbert Hubbard and his wife. After the ship was struck Ernest helped to find a life jacket for six year old Helen Smith and got her to safety, noticing along the way that Elbert Hubbard and his wife were retreating to their cabin. He too made his way onto a lifeboat and survived the sinking.



Alfred Vanderbilt

Alfred Vanderbilt was a first-class passenger on board the *Lusitania*, travelling to Liverpool on a business trip. The 37 year old Vanderbilt was a millionaire and part of the Vanderbilt family of philanthropists. When the torpedo struck the ship, Vanderbilt was said to have been trying to locate a life jacket to give to a woman and her baby. When he was unable to find one he offered her his own despite being unable to swim. He died and his body was never recovered.



Philip Traynor

Little is known of Philip Traynor who is listed on the manifest as being from Derry, although it is suggested may have been born in Liverpool. Working as a coal trimmer he would have been responsible for moving coal around the bunkers in order to keep the coal level and avoid the ship listing to one side. He did not survive the sinking.



Elbert Hubbard

Elbert was travelling on board the *Lusitania* with his wife Alice. The writer and artist was best known for forming the Roycroft Arts and Crafts movement in New York in 1895. Hubbard had plans to interview Kaiser Wilhelm II and after obtaining his passport, following a visit to the White House, he and his wife boarded the *Lusitania*. The eyewitness account of Ernest Cowper suggests that when the torpedo struck, Elbert and his wife retreated to their cabin rather than become separated in the water.



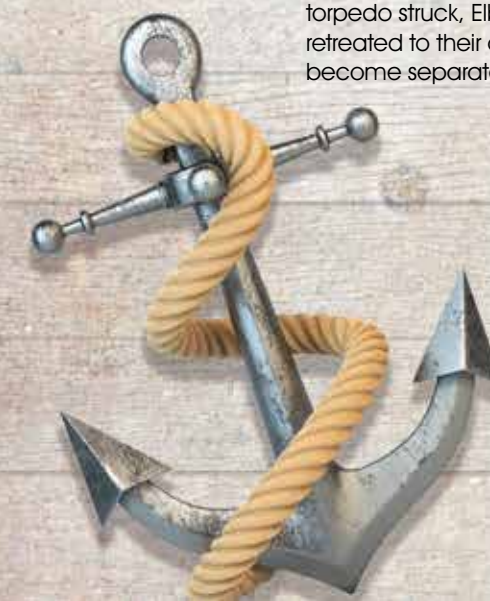
Captain William Thomas Turner

Captain Turner replaced previous Captain Daniel Dow on the *Lusitania* because Dow was apparently suffering from stress. Captain Turner took control of the ship on its final voyage and was on the bridge when the torpedo struck. He survived the sinking and was rescued from a collapsible boat. He would later take most of the blame for the disaster during an inquest.



Walther Schweiger

Schweiger was the commander of *U-20* which fired the torpedo that sank the *Lusitania*. He gave the order to fire on the passenger ship when it was judged to have entered into the war zone. Schweiger was also involved in the torpedoing and sinking of other ships during the course of the First World War before being killed in action in 1917.



Background Information

26
KNOTS

The RMS *Lusitania* was once the world's largest passenger ship. The vessel was launched for the Cunard Line in 1906 and set a high standard for speed, capacity and luxury — the *Lusitania* was considered one of the most luxurious liners of its time. The ship was capable of speeds of up to 26 knots (29-30mph).

01
MAY

The *Lusitania* departed from Liverpool heading for New York on May 1st, 1915. At the time there was a significant rise in submarine warfare with Germany declaring the seas around Britain and Ireland as a war zone.

Ahead of the *Lusitania*'s return voyage, the German Embassy warned against travel on the ship as it would pass through the designated war zone and could be liable to attack by German forces. A number of passengers, including Alfred Vanderbilt, received anonymous telegrams advising them not to travel on the ship.

202
CROSSINGS

The ship was making her 202nd crossing from New York and was scheduled to dock in Liverpool on the evening of May 7th. Earlier that day the ship was just 11 miles from the coast of Ireland and inside the designated war zone as identified by the Germans.

2:10
PM

The RMS *Lusitania* crossed the path of German U-boat 20 at 2.10pm when the commanding officer gave the order to fire. A torpedo hit the liner on the starboard side and this was followed moments later by a second explosion, thought to have occurred when a boiler erupted.

1193
PEOPLE
LOST

It took just 18 minutes from the moment the torpedo hit until the *Lusitania* sank. During that time crew managed to launch only six lifeboats. A total of 1,960 passengers and crew were aboard the *Lusitania* at the time of the sinking and 1,193 died as a result.

Warships and small vessels made their way to the area to assist survivors and over 700 were rescued.

Both survivors and the bodies of those who died were brought to Queenstown (now known as Cobh). Over 100 bodies of those who died are buried in the cemetery there.

The sinking of the *Lusitania* caused outcry across the world and, with the deaths of over 128 Americans, the event is credited as a starting point to the United States entering the war two years later in 1917.

Glossary

Lusitania Medallion

The medal was originally produced by German artist Karl Goetz to mark the sinking of the *Lusitania*. Copies were later reproduced in Britain as part of an anti-German propaganda campaign.

Newspaper Advert

The German Embassy in the United States placed a newspaper advert warning against travel on the *Lusitania* as the ship's path would see it enter the war zone as identified by German forces.

Kaiser Wilhelm II

Wilhelm II was German Emperor from 1888 to 1918 and was the eldest grandson of Queen Victoria. Wilhelm had pledged his support to Austria-Hungary in the July Crisis of 1914 that eventually led to the outbreak of the First World War.

War Zone

Germany had declared a war zone around Britain and Ireland in February 1915. Any ships that entered the area were liable to be attacked by German U-boats.

U-boat

A German version of a submarine (from the German unterseeboot, or under-sea boat) in operation throughout the First and Second World Wars. They were primarily used to target ships bringing supplies from Britain and the United States.

Coal Trimmer

A coal trimmer was responsible for all coal handling operations on board a ship. Trimmers were responsible for moving coal around the bunkers to keep supplies level and avoid the ship listing to one side.

Escort ships

During previous wartime voyages, an escort ship would greet the *Lusitania* as it approached the British Isles and guide her to port. However, on its last voyage, there were no escorts in sight.

Queenstown (Cobh)

Queenstown, now known as Cobh, in County Cork was the location where survivors and the dead were brought ashore and is the location for an official monument to the disaster.





RMS *Lusitania*
left New York
on May 1st 1915

War Zone
as declared
by Germany

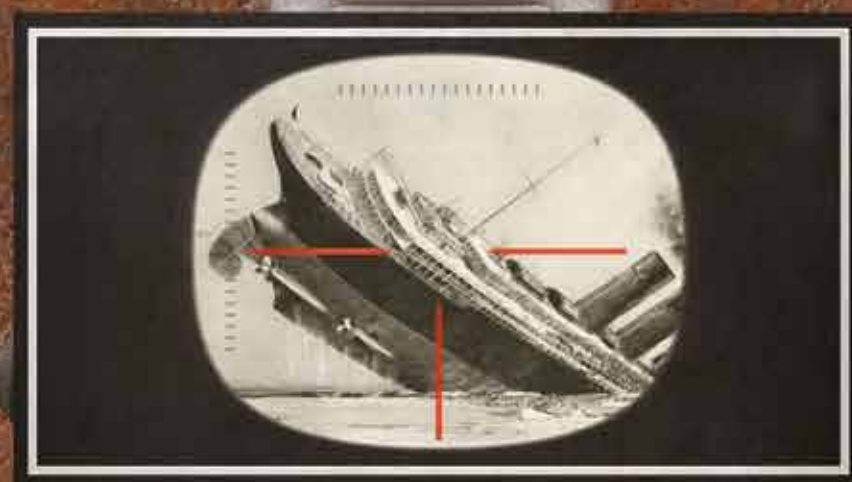
War Zone
as declared
by Germany

● **Liverpool**
(the intended
destination
of the ship)

● **Queenstown**

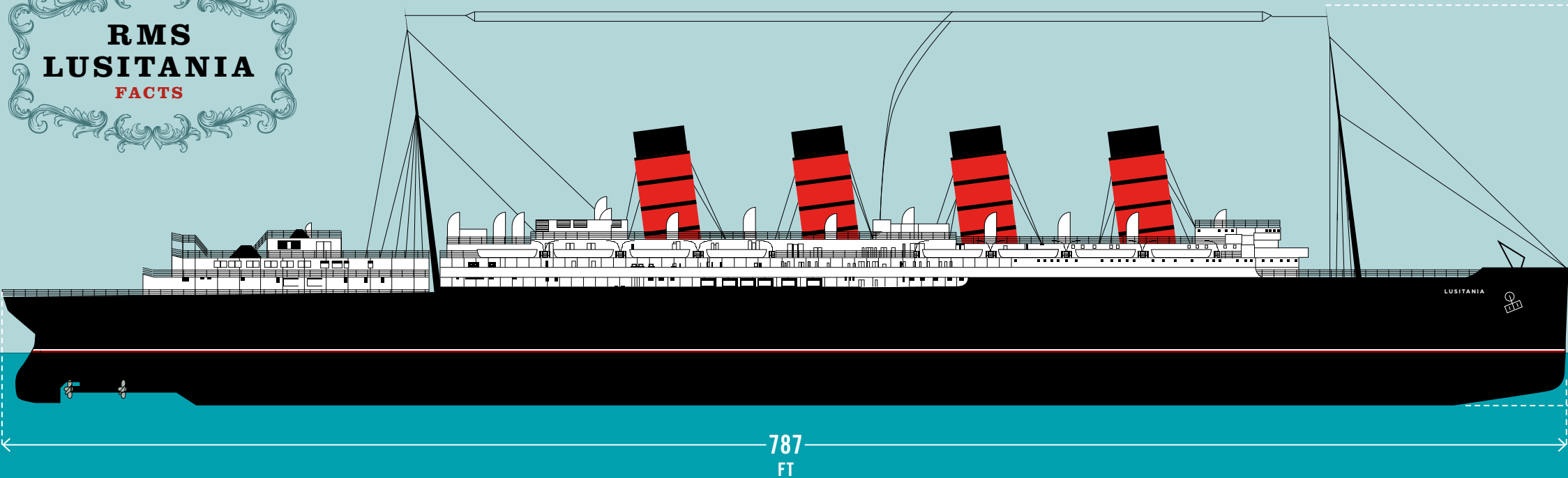
RMS *Lusitania*
was just 11 miles
from the coast
of Ireland when
it was attacked
on May 7th 1915

War Zone
as declared
by Germany

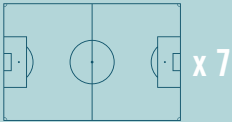


RMS LUSITANIA

FACTS



The *Lusitania* was taller than the Statue of Liberty!

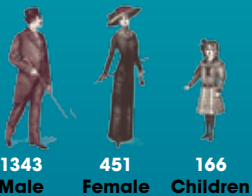


40,000 Tons

The *Lusitania* was almost as long as seven football pitches

PEOPLE

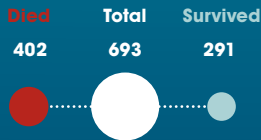
TOTAL
1960



PASSENGERS



CREW



Q: Calculate the average percentage survival rate for all those on board.

LUXURY



Travelling on board RMS *Lusitania* did not come cheaply. A one way ticket in a first-class Regal Suite would have cost £270 – at a time when average monthly earnings in the UK were less than £10!

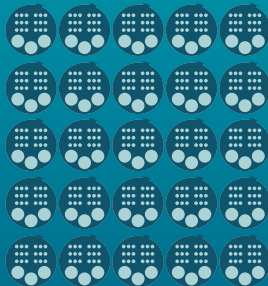
First-class passengers would have had access to the dining room, smoking room, reading room, verandah café and a barber shop!

FOOD

Keeping everyone fed on board was of the utmost priority. The estimated supplies for a one-way journey included:



SPEED/FUEL



Q: Find out the average monthly earnings for 1915 and compare against the price of a first-class ticket.



26 knots
Top Speed

The *Lusitania* was powered by 25 Scotch boilers which used 840 tons of coal every day. It would have taken 50 men to operate all the boilers at one time. The top speed of the RMS *Lusitania* was 26 knots (30 mph).

Q: The total journey distance between New York and Liverpool was approximately 3,500 miles. Calculate how many days and hours the journey would have taken if the ship was constantly travelling at its fastest speed.

LIFEBOATS



There were 70 lifeboats, life rafts and collapsibles on board designed to carry 2,605 people. However, due to the speed of the ship's sinking, only six lifeboats were successfully launched. Other people made their way onto lifeboats and collapsibles after they entered the water.

Only six lifeboats were successfully launched

CARGO



Included in *Lusitania's* cargo were boxes of rifle bullets and shell cases and it has been suggested that this caused the second explosion. However, shell cases are empty metal cylinders while bullets would not have caused a major explosion. It is most likely that the second explosion was that of a boiler bursting.

Q: Why was *Lusitania* carrying shell cases and bullets? Investigate why the supplies would have been amongst the ship's cargo and where they were destined for.

U-BOAT



In the days before coming into contact with the *Lusitania*, U-20 had attacked and sank three other vessels around the Irish coast. With a speed of only 15 knots (17 mph) when surfaced, the U-boat would have been unable to catch up with the *Lusitania* if the ship had not come into direct sight of the submarine.



U-20 was carrying six torpedoes. It used its last one when firing at the RMS *Lusitania*.

Investigate the sinking of the *Lusitania*!

Many theories exist as to the fate of the *Lusitania* including why it was targeted, whether or not it was carrying munitions and what caused the second explosion.

You will work in groups within your class to compile a report. You will assume the role of the German government, the British government or the American government and investigate the surroundings that led to the sinking of *Lusitania* and the action you will choose to take as a result of your conclusion.

You should examine areas such as the newspaper adverts warning against travel, the captain's mindset and knowledge of the waters, the weather on the day of the sinking and how it affected travel, and whether or not U-20 was justified in its actions.

Present your report to the rest of the class and justify the findings for your individual government.

KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM LINKS

| | |
|---|--|
| Key Elements | Personal Understanding; Mutual Understanding; Moral Character; Citizenship; Cultural Understanding; Media Awareness; Ethical Awareness |
| Cross Curricular Skills | Communication; Using Mathematics; Using ICT |
| Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities | Managing Information; Thinking, Problem Solving, Decision Making; Working With Others |
| Areas of Learning | English (with Media Education); Environment & Society; Science & Technology |

Classroom Activities

Make your own *Lusitania* animation!

The sinking of the *Lusitania* was widely covered in the media and through the medium of film and song. Enraged by the sinking and in order to give an accurate portrayal of the event, American cartoonist Winsor McCay began to make an animated film about the *Lusitania* in 1916.

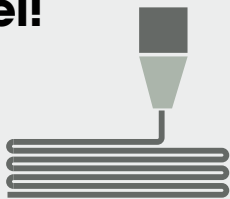
The result was 'The Sinking of the *Lusitania*', a 12 minute long animated documentary that was acknowledged as the longest piece of animated film at the time of its release. The film took McCay over two years to make and included over 25,000 individual hand drawings produced in his free time.

'The Sinking of the *Lusitania*' also became known as one of the earliest examples of animated propaganda.

KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM LINKS

| | |
|---|--|
| Key Elements | Personal Understanding; Mutual Understanding; Moral Character; Citizenship; Cultural Understanding; Media Awareness; Ethical Awareness |
| Cross Curricular Skills | Communication; Using ICT |
| Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities | Managing Information; Thinking, Problem Solving, Decision Making; Being Creative; Working With Others |
| Areas of Learning | The Arts; English (with Media Education); Environment & Society; Science & Technology |

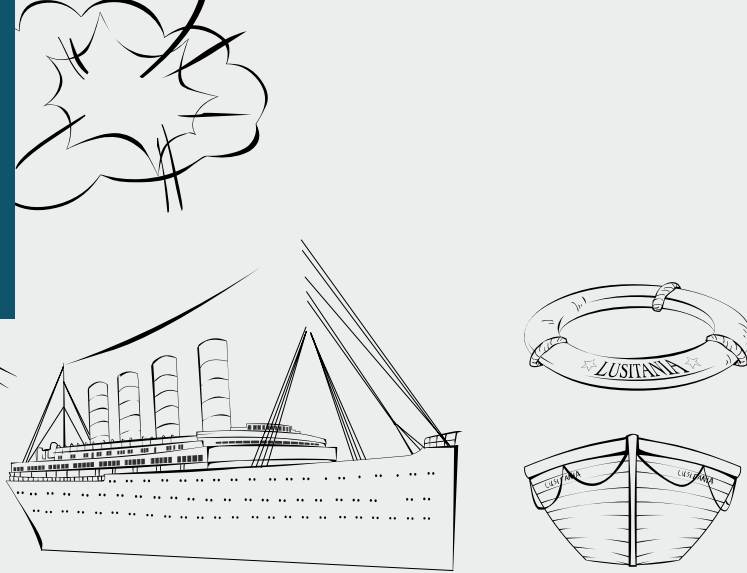

Print and build your own *Lusitania* model!



A 3D design of the famous liner is available to download from the Creative Centenaries website. From there, you can book a session with the Nerve Centre's Fab Lab facility to print and build a model for your classroom or group, exploring the design that went behind the ship and understanding the importance of the sinking.

Printing and building the model allows you to gain a perspective of the liner including its shape and size and how a torpedo attack would have caused irreversible damage. You may even wish to build a model for use in your animation – the possibilities are endless!

For more information, including how to download the design or to book a session with the Fab Lab, visit: www.creativecentenaries.org/resources

Download our animation how to guide!

Download the Nerve Centre's specially created 'Creating Animation in the Classroom' iBook to help guide you through the process of making your own animation. The step-by-step guide includes helpful hints and tips, how-to video guides and examples of work created. Follow the links at www.creativecentenaries.org/resources to download the book for free!



Design your own newspaper front page

Pupils will use digital imaging software to create the front page of a newspaper in the aftermath of the sinking of the *Lusitania*. Students should research some of the headlines and articles from newspapers across the world following the sinking and examine the wording and language used. They will then write their own front-page story about the sinking and use digital imaging software to create the look and feel of a newspaper from the time.



Record your own radio play

Students will use audio recording software to create a radio play broadcast focused on the actions of someone on board the *Lusitania*. In small groups, pupils should research the actions and fate of a passenger who survived the sinking and script a short broadcast from their perspective, including what they experienced. They will then use audio recording software to record and edit the script and use sound effects where appropriate.



Compile a class wiki on the *Lusitania*

In your class, construct a group wiki on the *Lusitania* to give a background and detail to the events. Each group will be assigned a number of elements or aspects of the story and create a wiki entry to document it. Certain aspects might include details of shipbuilding, a timeline of the disaster, the historical setting, influences on America joining the conflict and a glossary. Each of the separate entries can be compiled into a complete group wiki and used by the whole class.

KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM LINKS

| | |
|---|--|
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| Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities | Managing Information; Thinking, Problem Solving, Decision Making; Being Creative |
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| | |
|---|--|
| Key Elements | Personal Understanding; Mutual Understanding; Moral Character; Citizenship; Cultural Understanding; Media Awareness; Ethical Awareness |
| Cross Curricular Skills | Communication; Using ICT |
| Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities | Managing Information; Thinking, Problem Solving, Decision Making; Being Creative Working With Others; Self Management |
| Areas of Learning | English (with Media Education); Environment & Society |



www.creativecentenaries.org

