### The Sinking of the Lusitania: A Tragedy That Changed the Course of World War I



The Sinking of the Lusitania: An Interactive History Adventure (You Choose: History) by Steven Otfinoski

★ ★ ★ ★ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English File size : 18472 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 113 pages Screen Reader : Supported



On May 7, 1915, the RMS Lusitania, a British passenger liner, was torpedoed by a German U-boat off the coast of Ireland. The sinking of the Lusitania, which resulted in the deaths of over 1,100 people, was one of the most controversial events of World War I.

The Lusitania was one of the largest and most luxurious passenger ships in the world. It was built by the Cunard Line and entered service in 1907. The ship was over 785 feet long and had a gross tonnage of over 31,000 tons. It could accommodate over 2,000 passengers and crew.

The Lusitania was on a voyage from New York to Liverpool when it was torpedoed by the German U-boat U-20. The U-boat fired a single torpedo into the ship's starboard side, causing a massive explosion. The Lusitania sank in just 18 minutes, with over 1,100 people losing their lives.

The sinking of the Lusitania was a major propaganda victory for Germany. The British government claimed that the ship was carrying munitions, but this claim was later disputed. The German government argued that the Lusitania was a legitimate military target because it was carrying troops and supplies to the British war effort.

The sinking of the Lusitania had a profound impact on the course of World War I. It led to the United States declaring war on Germany in April 1917. The United States' entry into the war was a major turning point in the conflict, and it helped to ensure the eventual Allied victory.

#### The Causes of the Sinking of the Lusitania

There are a number of factors that contributed to the sinking of the Lusitania. These include:

- The German U-boat campaign: Germany had been using U-boats to attack British shipping since the start of World War I. The U-boats were very effective at sinking ships, and they caused the British government to lose a significant number of merchant vessels.
- The British Admiralty's decision to not provide escorts for passenger ships: The British Admiralty was aware of the threat posed by U-boats, but it did not provide escorts for passenger ships because it believed that this would be a waste of resources. The Admiralty argued that the U-boats would not target passenger ships, but this proved to be a fatal mistake.
- The Lusitania's speed: The Lusitania was one of the fastest passenger ships in the world. This made it difficult for U-boats to catch up to the ship and attack it. However, the Lusitania's speed also made it more

difficult for the ship to maneuver, which made it more vulnerable to torpedo attacks.

 The Lusitania's cargo: The Lusitania was carrying a large amount of cargo, including munitions and other supplies for the British war effort.
 This made the ship a more attractive target for German U-boats.

#### The Impact of the Sinking of the Lusitania

The sinking of the Lusitania had a profound impact on the course of World War I. It led to the United States declaring war on Germany in April 1917. The United States' entry into the war was a major turning point in the conflict, and it helped to ensure the eventual Allied victory.

The sinking of the Lusitania also had a significant impact on public opinion in the United States. The American public was outraged by the sinking of the ship, and this helped to turn the United States against Germany. The sinking of the Lusitania is still remembered today as one of the most tragic events of World War I.

#### The Legacy of the Sinking of the Lusitania

The sinking of the Lusitania has had a lasting legacy. It is still remembered today as one of the most tragic events of World War I. The sinking of the ship also led to a number of changes in maritime law. These changes include the requirement for passenger ships to carry lifeboats for all passengers and crew, and the prohibition on the use of submarines to attack passenger ships.

The sinking of the Lusitania is a reminder of the dangers of war. It is also a reminder of the importance of remembering the victims of war and fighting

to prevent such tragedies from happening again.

#### The Sinking of the Lusitania in Popular Culture

The sinking of the Lusitania has been the subject of numerous books, films, and television shows. These include:

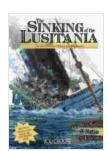
- The Lusitania Disaster (1918): A silent film about the sinking of the Lusitania.
- The Sinking of the Lusitania (1972): A television movie about the sinking of the Lusitania.
- Lusitania: Murder on the Atlantic (2002): A documentary about the sinking of the Lusitania.
- The Lusitania: Triumph and Tragedy (2015): A book about the sinking of the Lusitania.

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Click here to learn more about the sinking of the Lusitania.





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