

Naval Warfare & The Sinking of the Lusitania



*Blockades, U-Boats, and International Provocations
Drawing the United States into WWI*

Europe at War

The Allies Blockade the Central Powers

- ❖ The British declared war on Germany in August 1914 after German troops invaded Belgium.
- ❖ Utilizing the world's most powerful Navy, the British declared the entire North Sea area a war zone in November 1914, signaling that any ship to enter those waters would be destroyed, especially any ships that might be carrying war munitions or contraband (which included food).
- ❖ The Germans objected to the nature of the blockade, which had an expanded definition of "war materiel" and items that would support the war effort, and by early 1915 the Germans were starting to feel the effects of restricted trade.
- ❖ The blockade against the Central Powers had major implications over the course of the war. As the European war continued, Germany and Austria-Hungary began rationing food (1,000 calories/day). By 1918 more severe rationing programs led to mass malnutrition and starvation and upwards of 900,000 German and Austrian civilian deaths.

Europe at War

The Central Powers Blockade the Allies

❖ The British Isles were dependent on unimpeded trade for food and supplies as well.

❖ In retaliation to the blockade, the Germans sought to disrupt British trade by declaring the seas around the British Isles as a war zone in February 1915.

❖ This escalation in the commerce war between the Germans and the British represented an affront to the pervading international rules and traditions of the time regarding the proper form of a naval campaign against an enemy's commerce.

New York Tribune
First to Last—the Truth: News - Editorials - Advertisements
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1915. PRICE ONE CENT

New "Berlin Decree" Declares Waters Around British Isles War Zone On and After Feb. 18

MAP SHOWING AREA OF SEA COVERED BY GERMANY'S "PAPER BLOCKADE."

Kaiser Follows Napoleon's Famous Order Issued in 1806.
NEUTRAL VESSELS WARNED OF DANGER
Every Enemy Merchantman in Proclaimed Area To Be Destroyed.
PASSENGERS' LIVES MAY BE SACRIFICED
Zone Extends Even in Shetland Isles and in Strip Along Dutch Coast.

Berlin, Feb. 4. (By Wireless to Berlin, N. Y.) The German Admiralty issued the following communication today:

"The waters around Great Britain and Ireland, including the whole of the English Channel, are declared a war zone from and after February 18, 1915.

"Every enemy merchant ship found in this war zone will be destroyed, even if it is impossible to avert danger, which threatens the crew and passengers.

"Also, neutral ships in the war zone are in danger, as in consequence of the issue of neutral flags ordered by the British government on January 31 and in view of the blockade of neutral waters it cannot always be avoided that attacks made for enemy ships endanger neutral ships.

"Shipping northward around the Shetland Islands, in the eastern basin of the North Sea, and in a strip of at least thirty nautical miles in breadth along the Dutch coast is endangered in the same way."

There has been published in Germany recently what purports to be a secret order, issued by the British Admiralty to British merchant ships, instructing them to make use of neutral flags. A characteristic comment thereon is found in the "Kaiser Zeitung," which says:

"What is this command but an admission by the English that they are unable longer to protect our flag? International law, and one of its essential principles, is that neutral ships are not to be treated as enemy ships, unless they are actually or ostensibly in the service of the enemy. Consequently, German submarines will have to direct their torpedoes also at neutral ships if neutral powers do not see to it that their neutral vessels do not fall to the lot of the British Admiralty."

Dutch Paper Proposes Neutral Powers Oppose Order
Amsterdam, Feb. 4. The "Handelsblad," pointing against the German decree, published a statement without previous examination this day based only on contradictions of all the principles of international law, but of which the British government has not taken notice. The "Handelsblad" expresses the hope that the government will not fail to ask for a clear and satisfactory answer to the question, what the British statement means. If the statement contains a neutral invitation to shipping there, and the "Handelsblad" it will be necessary to ask the British government to explain such methods of warfare.

Berlin, Feb. 4. The "Berliner Nachrichten" of Leipzig, published a friendly outbreak against Great Britain in an article headed "The British Blockade." The article states that the British blockade is a violation of international law and that the British government is in violation of its obligations to neutral powers.

AUSTRIA YIELDS TARNOW UNDER RUSSIANS' FIRE
GERMANS CROWDED BACK NEAR WASW
Grand Duke's Troops Win Village as Invaders Continue Assaults.
Amsterdam, Feb. 4. The "Austro-Hungarian" war press bureau has issued the following:

"Artillery and infantry fighting continued along the Sava River.

"We evacuated Tarnow (Catholic) after the Russians hounded the place with heavy mortars.

"A decisive battle is being fought in the region of Duka, where strong Russian pressure is felt in the direction of Duka Pass and neighboring passes. A fighting in the Carpathians is being reported."

LOOKS LIKE ATTEMPT TO COVER ACTS OF WANTON VANDALISM, SAYS COUDERT
"Such a communication, if true, is very extraordinary and unprecedented," said Frederic H. Coudert, an authority on international law, when his attention was called last night to the communication of the German Admiralty declaring the waters around the British Isles a war zone. "It would seem to be a notice to neutral shipping that if it goes in that part of the sea it takes its chances on being blown up. An inconvenience to neutral vessels can be considered an act of hostility.

"To intercept commerce on such a great scale is either a mere empty threat or a war against humanity. I can hardly believe such a thing possible. When Napoleon published the Milan decree, in 1806, declaring the British ports blockaded, our country held that no blockade was effective that part of the sea it takes its chances on being blown up. An inconvenience to neutral vessels can be considered an act of hostility.

"There is no justification for the order at all; it seems like an attempt to cover acts of wanton vandalism."

BILL TO FREE STILWELL
Cottillo's Measure Would Allow Ex-Senator's Parole
Albany, Feb. 4. The efforts of friends of ex-Senator Stephen Cottillo, of Albany, to secure a bill for extending the term of his confinement for a year, were defeated today by the Albany Legislature. A similar measure was introduced last year. It provides that persons convicted of felonies, with the exception of those...

ART WRECKS YALE MOTTO
Hebrew Letters Read 'Blasphemers and Farmers.'
New Haven, Feb. 4. Many Yale alumni associations, who have represented the university read on their banners, will be surprised to learn, through careless reading of articles, the Hebrew characters of the motto "Yale et Veritas" have been made to read "Blasphemers and Farmers."

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Labels on Hats
FEE FOR KISSES, \$5 PER Wife Accuses C. D. Levey of Thus Paying Another.
First declares a kiss in which Clarence D. Levey paid Alina Haver, according to an affidavit filed in a suit brought by his wife, Mrs. Warren D. Levey, before Justice Kelly, in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn.

Wife Made Union Made
At Long Branch the 21-1/2-1/2 exchange was frequently offered, says the affidavit of a witness.

DEFENDS B. R. T. AND INTERBORO OFFICIALS
Chairman Bares His Ignorance of Commission Proceedings.

PLAN TO STUDY WORK BY PROXY FAILED
Hayward's Trap Snares Official in Maze of Contradictions at Inquiry.

H. C. COE, JR., LOST; FOUL PLAY FEARED
Son of New York Physician Missing from His Home in Boston.

Labels, Fully 30
my friend, with a buy an imported the big, reputable

INTERESTING
readings in Hat- interesting vari- by several un- now an Austrian by England.

ONLY!
at home at 36 East about the city- uted debates? In- ally imported for? They pointed out in the form of al, setting in the interior?

IMPORTED BY
NG. the design, I con- second label, not actually, but more the little circle of North America; being interpreted, Irving Company's hat was made at New W. Green, in this was my first library had moved States, presumably with it. Corrobor- with my Kaufman's win- through the eye

FOR

THE
**BALTIMORE
SABOTAGE CELL**

GERMAN AGENTS, AMERICAN TRAITORS, AND
THE U-BOAT *DEUTSCHLAND* DURING WORLD WAR I



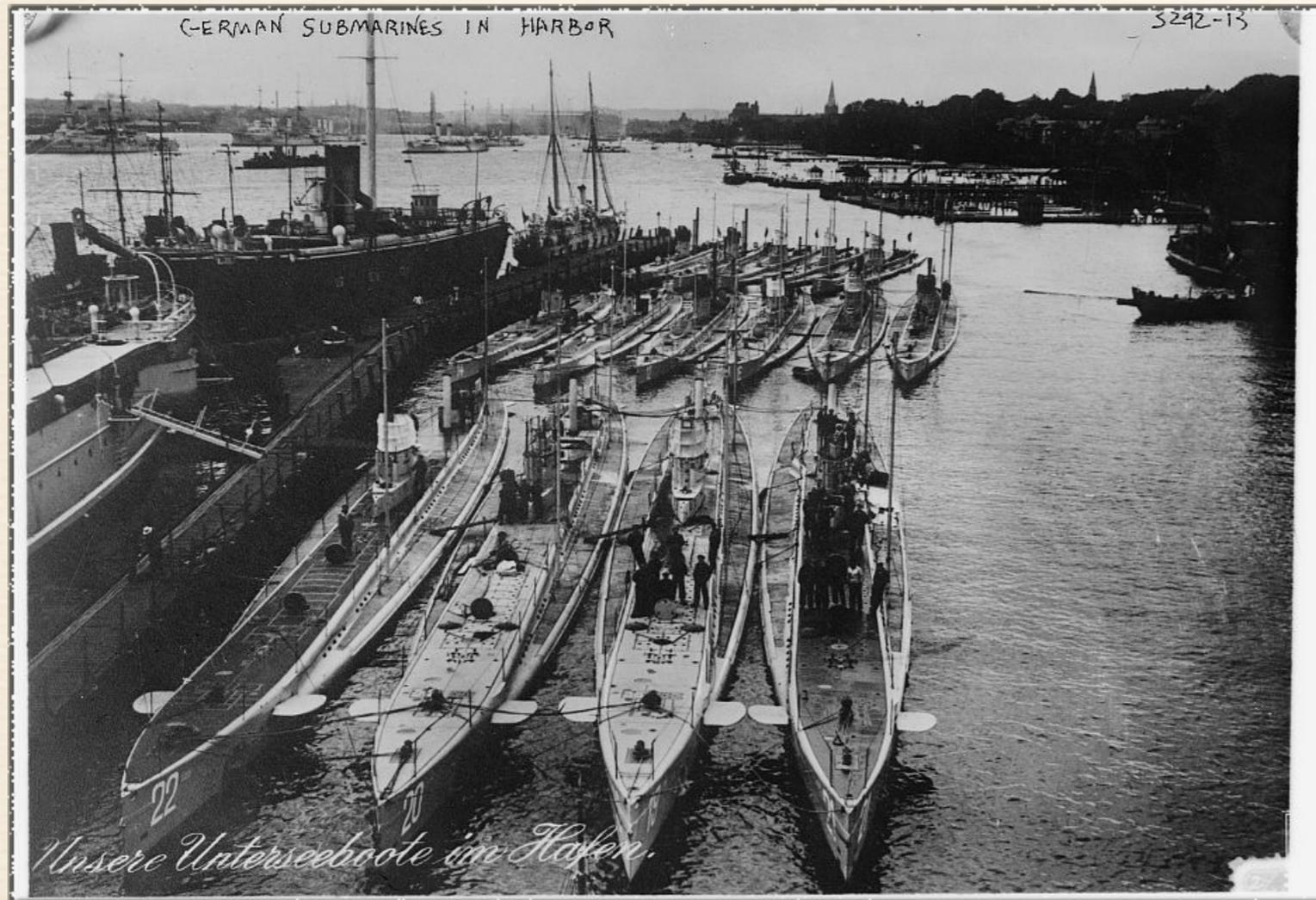
Europe at War

A Discussion on Trading Blockades and Naval Warfare During WWI

Run Time: 1 Hour Video

Submarine Warfare

A New and Significant Use of Force Arises During WWI



Library of Congress

- ❖ German naval forces did not match the strength of the British Navy.
- ❖ To prevent other countries from trading with Britain, Germany employed submarine warfare tactics.
- ❖ U-Boats (short for the German word Untersee-boots meaning submarine) were primitive vessels that could submerge beneath the water and send torpedoes into any boats traveling in open water.



German U-Boats

Silent Footage of German Submarines Sinking Merchant Vessels During WWI

Run Time: 30 Minutes [Video](#)

Submarine Warfare

A New and Significant Use of Force in War



Library of Congress

Interactive Map: U-Boat Attacks in World War I



Backdrop to the Lusitania Sinking

Germany Issues a Warning About Civilian Sea Travel During War

GERMANY WARNS AGAINST TRAVEL IN ALLIES' SHIPS

Tells U. S. Public All Such Vessels Are Likely To Be Destroyed.

PASSENGERS RISK THEIR OWN LIVES

Washington Holds Notice Does Not Relieve Kaiser from Responsibility.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, April 30.—In advertisements placed in the most prominent newspapers of the United States, with a view to reaching every American reader possible, the German Embassy will give notice to-morrow that all who travel on ships flying the flags of Great Britain and her allies in the war zone, do so at their own risk. This notice to the public, which follows the formal notice of the war zone given by Germany to the State Department some time ago, reads as follows:

NOTICE!

The German Warning and Lusitania's Defiance

After the Lusitania sailed last Saturday it was announced that a number of the better known persons, booked to sail on her, had received telegrams warning them against sailing, as the ship was to be blown up. Officially, the Imperial German Embassy in Washington sent an advertisement to the New York papers warning all intending to board that persons sailing on ships of Great Britain and her Allies did so at their own risk.

Neither the telegrams nor the notice from the embassy had much, if any, effect on the passengers who had booked. At the offices of the Western Union Telegraph Company yesterday it was said that no effort had been made to find out if its lines had been used for the transmission of threatening telegrams, or that any investigation would be made if it were shown the company had transmitted or delivered such messages.

"We have no interest in messages other than to deliver them so long as the language complies with the laws of decency," said General Manager Selvester. "We do not know that such messages went over our lines, though it is my recollection that the report of these messages being received was denied."

"I can see where if it be shown that the ship was sunk through an internal explosion, the identity of the persons sending messages predicting that result might be of importance."

Previous calls from persons connected with the theatre, as Charles Frohman, the manager, and Charles Klein and status Miles Forman were among the passengers. The presence of Lady Allan and her daughters caused many inquiries from Canada, especially Montreal. Beyond the reports received at the offices, however, the clerks, who were kept busy answering the telegrams, could give no information.

Charles P. Sumner, the company's general manager, declined last night to put out any statement, saying that he had no more than the dispatches, and until more definite news was learned he preferred not to discuss the sinking. Many New Yorkers who had sailed inspired queries from their friends and relatives in this city, and among the first was Dock Commissioner R. A. C. Smith. Just as he left the office the text of the first message—that which had told of the sinking—which was originally communicated by the Cunard line to the newspapers, was given out, but the first announcement had been in the form of a bulletin.

The text of the cable message received here was:

"Lusitania, according to unconfirmed report, has been torpedoed by submarine at 2 p. m., Friday, ten miles south of Kinsale, and sunk 2:30. No way yet as to safety of passengers and crew."

Excepting the Brethertons, the first message which mentioned the safety of particular passengers came about 10 o'clock last night, when word was received that General H. B. Lasseter,



CUNARD
EUROPE VIA LIVERPOOL
LUSITANIA
Fastest and Largest Steamer now in Atlantic Service Sails
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 10 A.M.
Transylvania, . . . Fri., May 7, 5 P.M.
Ordona, . . . Tues., May 18, 10 A.M.
Tuscunia, . . . Fri., May 21, 5 P.M.
LUSITANIA, Sat., May 29, 10 A.M.
Transylvania, . . . Fri., June 4, 5 P.M.
Gibraltar - Genoa - Naples - Port S.S. Carpatha, Thur., May 13, NOON
ROUND THE WORLD TOURS
Through bookings on all principal ports of the World.
COMPANY OFFICE, 21-25 STATE ST., N.Y.

NOTICE!
TRAVELLERS intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles; that, in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial German Government, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain, or of any of her allies, are liable to destruction in those waters and that travellers sailing in the war zone on ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk.
IMPERIAL GERMAN EMBASSY.
WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 29, 1915.

Lean, and two Henderson rafts, sufficient for from forty to fifty passengers each.
Following the receipt of the second cable message from Liverpool, which told of the Lusitania's distress calls and added that all available craft near Old Head were rushing to her assistance, a flock of anxious men came into the office.
They included Miles H. Secchi, who inquired for his wife and for Mr. and Mrs. Booth Jones and their children, Percival, five, and Ailsa, thirteen. He was followed by Samuel Robert, who sought information about George A.

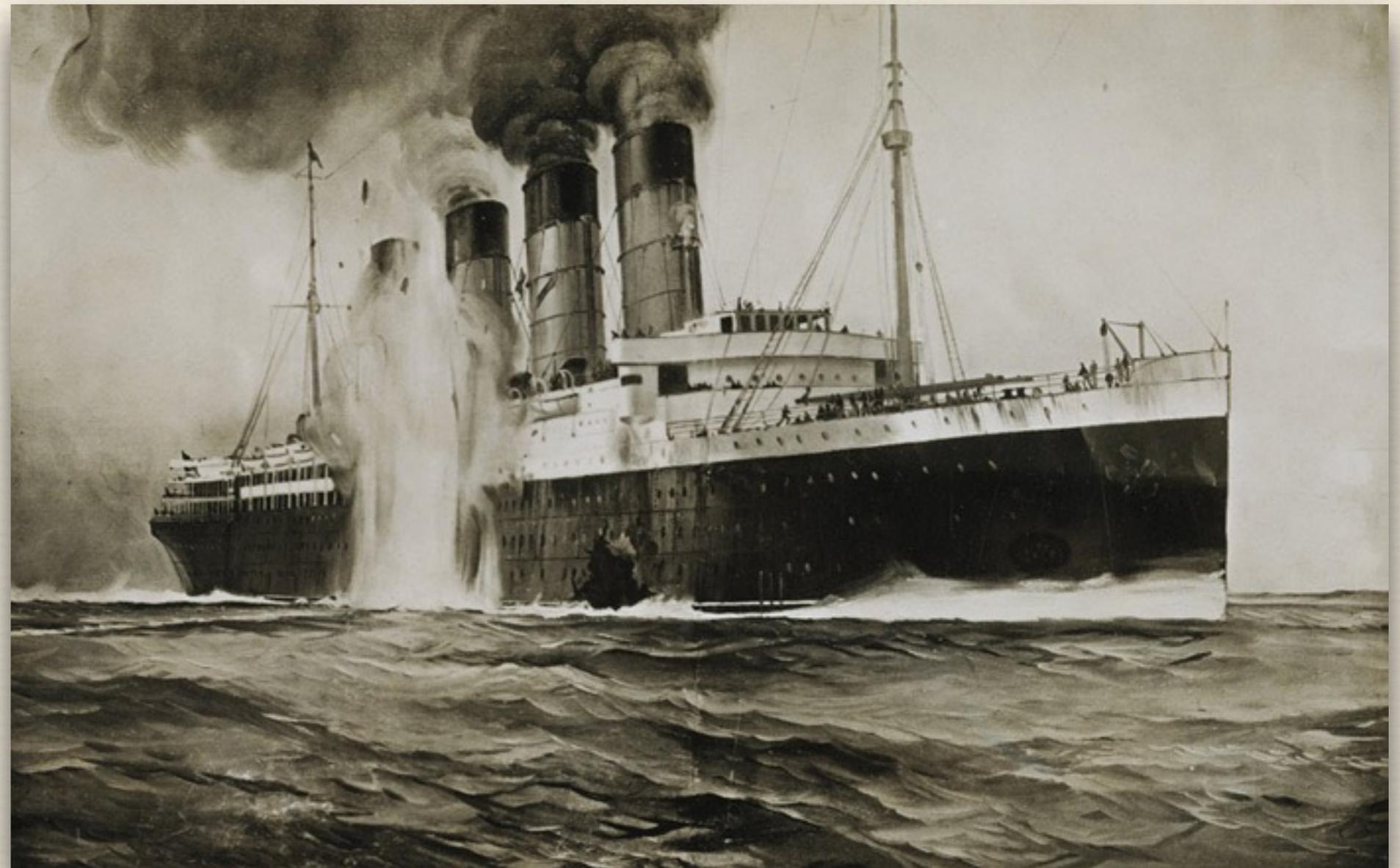
❖ In April 1915, the German embassy placed an advertisement in a New York newspaper warning:

❖ *“Travelers intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies, that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles, that in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial German government, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain or any of her allies are liable to destruction in those waters and that travelers sailing in the war zone on ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk. From the Imperial German Embassy”*

Collateral Damage

The Royal Mail Ship Lusitania

- ❖ The RMS Lusitania was a passenger liner setting sail from New York City to Liverpool, England, on May 1, 1915.
- ❖ The cargo ship carried 1,959 passengers and crew.
- ❖ Britain began arming merchant ships thus the Germans considered the Lusitania to be fair game as they suspected it may be carrying munitions.
- ❖ As it approached its destination of Liverpool on May 7, 1915, it encountered a German U-Boat and was hit by a torpedo.



Cunard Line
S.S. Lusitania.
- Leaving New York, May 1st.

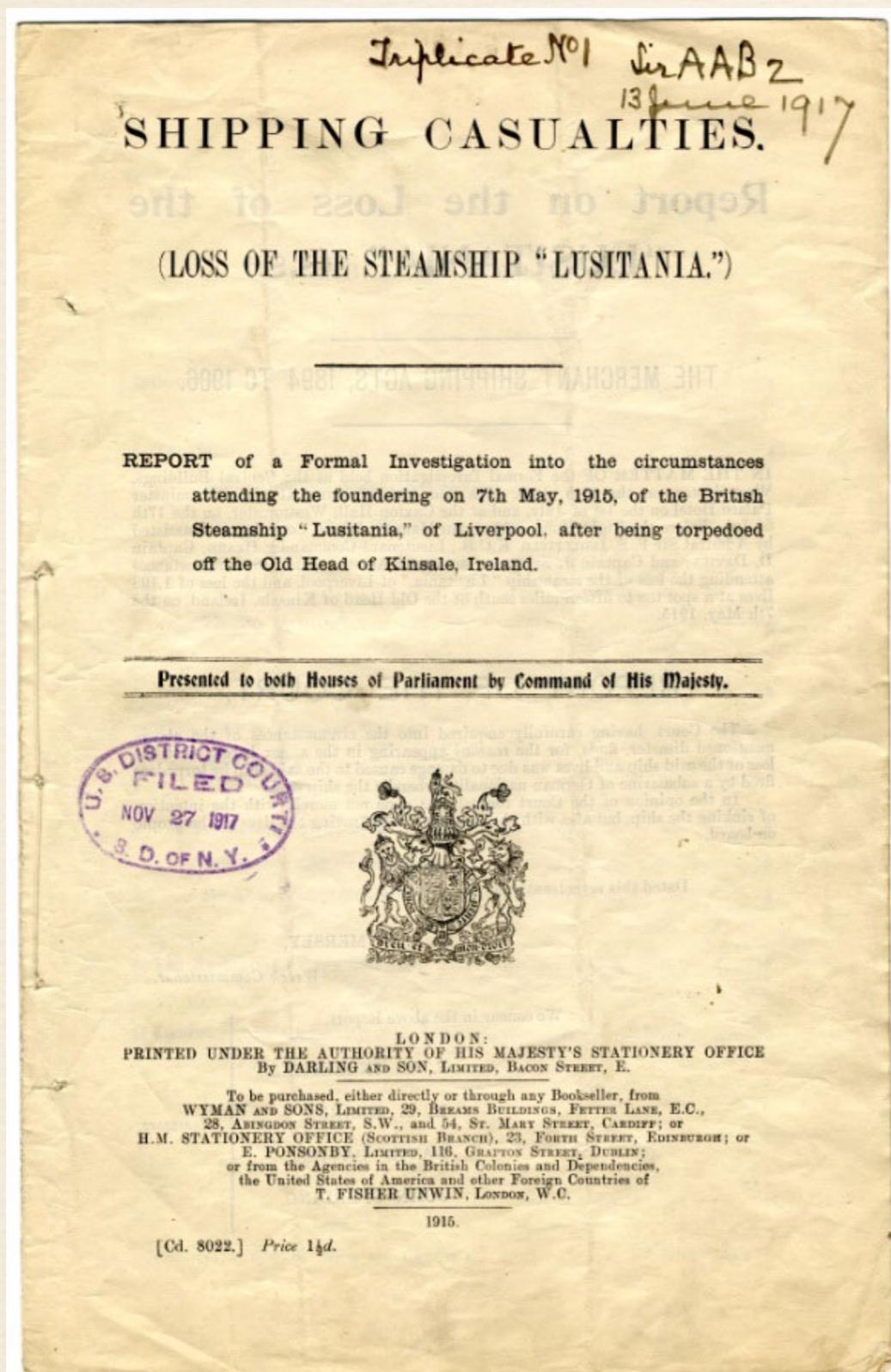
Last Voyage

Silent Footage of the RMS Lusitania Leaving New York City on May 1, 1915

Run Time: 5 Minutes

[Video](#)

Civilian Casualties

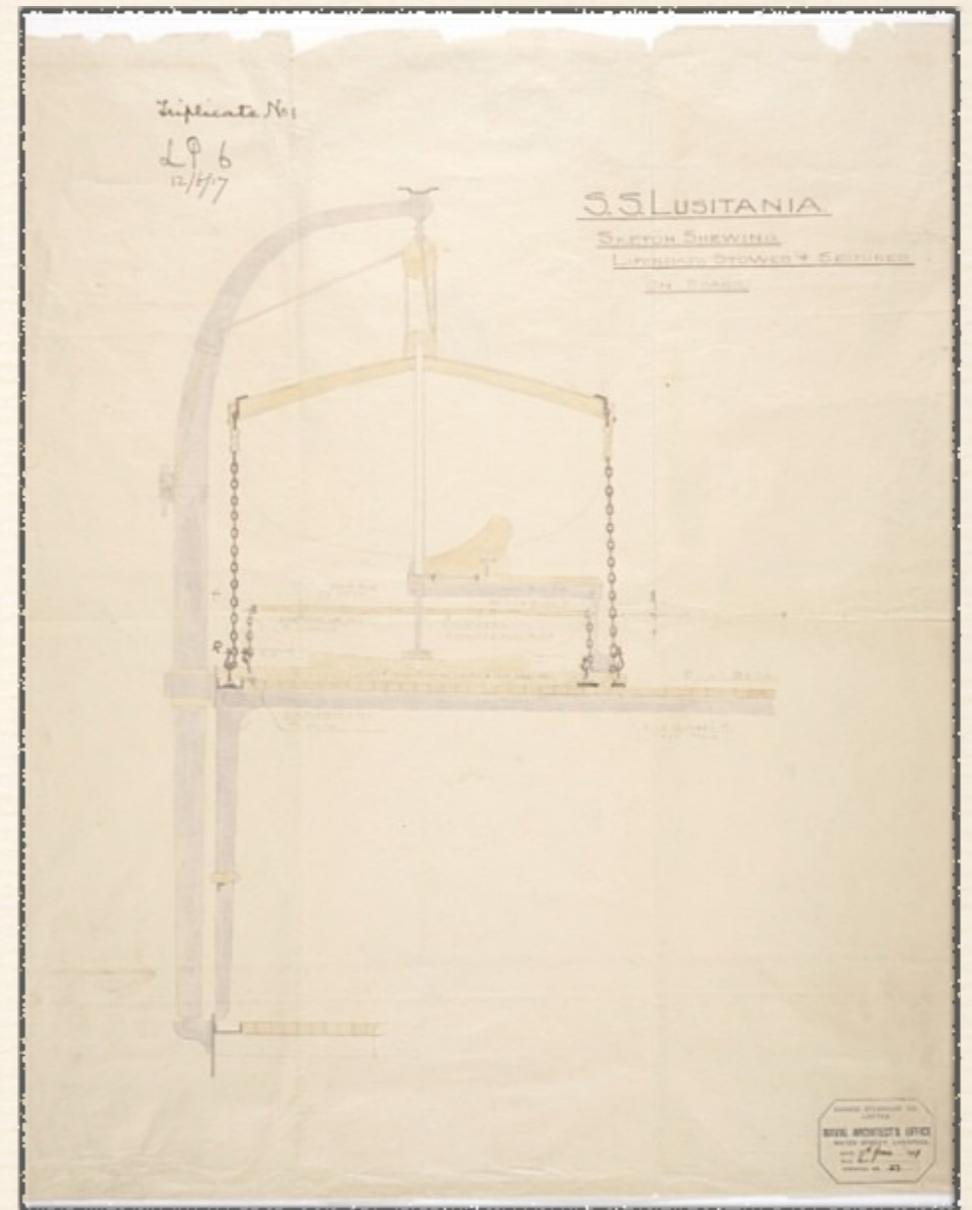


National Archives

- ❖ The use of submarines led to a merciless form of warfare that increased the sinking of merchant and civilian ships such as the Lusitania.
- ❖ When it came to capturing merchant ships during wartime, ships that traveled on the surface were required to adhere to specific rules set by international treaties.
- ❖ Any merchant ship that was stopped and discovered to be holding contraband cargo could be captured, boarded, and escorted to a designated harbor.
- ❖ Enemy merchant ships could also be sunk if the crew was allowed an opportunity to use lifeboats.
- ❖ At this time, Germany was practicing unrestricted submarine warfare.

An Affront to Maritime Custom

- ❖ The Lusitania was not granted this courtesy.
- ❖ After the torpedo hit, the 1,959 passengers and crew scrambled to the lifeboats with survival taking precedence over custom and law as those aboard discovered that many lifeboats were impossible to launch resulting in mass casualties.



The American Aspect

Massive Media Coverage of the Attack on Innocent Civilians Leads to Pro-British versus Anti-German Sentiment



- ❖ The Lusitania exploded from the direct hit, throwing 1,959 innocent passengers into the freezing Atlantic Ocean to drown as the ship sunk in only eighteen minutes.
- ❖ There were 1,198 civilian casualties including women and children. Among the fatalities were 128 American civilians.
- ❖ While the United States had been neutral in the war up until this point President Wilson issued a stern condemnation for the sinking of the Lusitania.

A Test of Neutrality

America: Are You With Us or Against Us?

- ❖ Until this point the war was predominately a European conflict with America remaining neutral.
- ❖ The United States was previously trading with both the Allies and the Central Powers, with a disproportionate amount of supplies and monetary support channelled to the Allies over the Central Powers.
- ❖ While American manufacturing and financing were crucial to the Allied war effort, the United States also conducted trade with Germany.

The Washington Times HOME EDITION
BER 8437. WASHINGTON, SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 6, 1915. PRICE ONE CENT.

WILSON FINDS NEUTRAL NATIONS TO RESIST GERMAN WAR ZONE DECREE; ASK UNITED STATES TO LEAD

DIFFICULTY IN FILLING BOARD BOARD PLANS

Personnel Supposed to Be Definitely Decided on, But Changes May Be Made If Refusals Are Reconsidered.

FRENCH SHELLS SET FIRE TO GERMANS' AMMUNITION TRAIN

Twenty-five Supply Wagons Destroyed by Big Guns in the Woerwe Region.

BALLOON IS BROUGHT DOWN

Three Prussian Officers Dashed to Earth—Kaiser Renews Attack in Alsace.

WILSON TO CONFER ON EXTRA SESSION

Close To President's Heart.

REVERSES CAUSE REIGN OF TERROR IN BOHEMIA

Mysterious Deaths Investigated by Yonkers Officials and Use of Chloroform to Dispose of Aged Is Charged in Confession of Employee.

WEIRD TALE OF I. O. O. F. ORDERLY BRINGS PROBE

Former orderly in the Yonkers Odd Fellows' Home for aged people, that he murdered eight of the inmates "just to put them out of the way," is the cause of four persons being in jail today pending further investigations by the coroner.

BLOCKADE TAKEN UP WITH PRESIDENT BY COUNSELOR LANSING

World-Wide Concert of Action in Interest of Peaceful Shipping Is Probable.

WASHINGTON IS "SOUNDED"

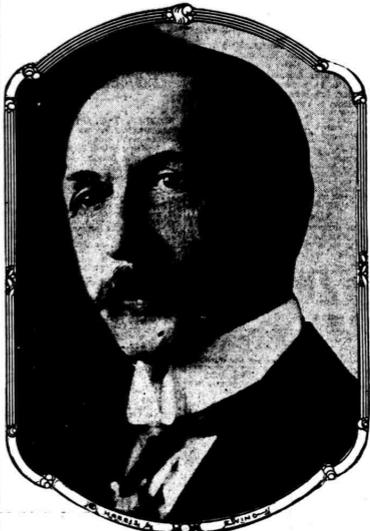
Netherlands Minister Holds Long Conference With Acting Secretary of State.

For the purpose of ascertaining whether the United States would consent to join with other neutral nations in protesting against the German "war zone" decree, Chevalier W. L. F. C. van Rappard, minister to the United States from The Netherlands, had a long conference today with Acting Secretary of State Robert Lansing.

The subject matter of the interview between Chevalier van Rappard and the Acting Secretary of State, described by Mr. Lansing as "confidential and informal," was laid before President Wilson this afternoon. Mr. Lansing spent about an hour with the President, during which the proposition of the Dutch minister was thoroughly considered.

No Official Note.

After his long conference with the President, Lansing, while declining to discuss the details of his interview with the Netherlands minister, admitted that it related to the German decree. In this connection he stated that the Government is still without official confirmation of the reports from Berlin that the decree is intended as a



MINISTER W. L. F. C. VAN RAPPARD, Who conferred with Acting Secretary of State Lansing today in regard to a proposed world-wide protest against the German "paper blockade."

old Here Vary ces in Weight, Scales Prove

Different Shops by Times Representing Differences—No Bakers Under Law, However, Strict Authorities.

ught today in different sections of Washington bakery, showed a variation of five and the smallest loaf.

bread weigh sixteen ounces. The heaviest loaf weighed 10 1/2 ounces, was purchased from a

hased by Times representatives in a each variation there is in loaves of bread tington housewives. The weighing was done office of the Superintendent of Weights, e weights, as tabulated by a Times representative Superintendent Sherman, just as are all scales at his office.

STANDARD.

for last week's national standard, that bought from a northwest baker, weight of 15 ounces. This loaf was purchased from a baker in the central northwest section. The loaf weighed 10 1/2 ounces was purchased in the eastern northwest section.

State Bread Lighter.

Bakers assert that various loaves of state bread vary in weight, and that the weight grows less as the bread grows older. The first variation, though, is more than an ounce. An effort to eliminate the second variation was made by having only freshly baked loaves.

The weighing made today has no connection with the standard loaf.

KISSED BEFORE WIFE; HE SUES FOR \$1,500

C. Mason Griffin Asks Damages for Chorus Girls' Embrace in Casino Theater.

GRiffin, in the sum of \$1,500 because he was kissed by a chorus girl in the Casino Theater last Monday, are asked in a lawsuit filed in the Eastern Superior Court today by C. Mason Griffin.

The defendant named in the petition is the Southern States Protheus Company, of Philadelphia, and Alan J. Bachrach, proprietor of the Casino Theater.

A number of the Southern States chorus girls are alleged to have forced Griffin to kiss them, and that the act caused him "great mental pain and suffering."

Griffin set forth that he paid \$50 a week for himself and wife to enter the Casino Theater, and that during the same time he was in the Casino Theater, he was kissed by a chorus girl, and that the act caused him "great mental pain and suffering."

Griffin asks that the court should award him \$1,500 as damages for the act, and that the defendant should be ordered to pay the costs of the suit.

The case is set for trial on February 12.

A Test of Neutrality

An Implicit Connection to the Allies

Washington Times

HOME EDITION

EVENING, FEBRUARY 5, 1915.

PRICE ONE CENT.

**GERMANS TAKE
CAPTIVE 6,000
RUSS IN NEW
WARSAW DRIVE**

**Czar's Forces Counter-Attack-
ing With Great Fury to Halt
Further Advances by Mack-
ensen's Army.**

**Muscovites Attempt to Renew
Offensive Near Tilsit in East
Prussia—Berlin Claims Re-
pulses of French.**

BERLIN (via wireless to Say-
ville), Feb. 5.—Six thousand Rus-
sian prisoners have been taken by
Gen. Von Mackensen's army in
its new drive on Warsaw, it was
officially announced here this aft-
ernoon. This report includes only
prisoners taken in the last four
days' fighting. Among the captives
are twenty-six officers.

To halt further advances by
Mackensen's army, the Russians
are counter-attacking with great
fury. Their efforts to retake posi-
tions east of Bolimow recently oc-
cupied by the Germans have
broken under heavy artillery fire.

Russ Resume Offensive.
In East Prussia, near Tilsit, there are
indications that the Russians are at-
tempting to resume the offensive. The
Germans have repulsed "strong Rus-
sian attacks" along the Niemen river.

Present fighting in Flanders and
France is regarded as unimportant by
the war office. The French made an
isolated attack against the German po-
sitions northwest of Perthes, but were
repulsed. Elsewhere artillery duels are

Germany's Defi Answered

Germany's announcement of the proposed establishment of a "paper blockade" about Great Britain and Ireland has met with prompt action by England and the United States.

Strenuous protest will be made by the United States through Ambassador Gerard at Berlin. The issue was discussed at length at the meeting of the Cabinet today, and it is understood that prompt action will follow.

England has answered the defi in characteristic fashion. At a special meeting of admiralty officials it is understood that it was decided to order the flotilla of destroyers back from the North Sea to sweep the seas clean of the submarine menace.

U. S. PREPARES TO PROTEST BLOCKADE OF BRITISH COAST

State Department Understood
To Be Working on Represen-
tations Now To Be Sent to
Berlin.

President Calls Meeting of
Cabinet, and Matter Is
Threshed Out—Germany
Desperate, Is Belief of Many

Vigorous protests will be for-
warded by this Government to
Berlin against the action of Ger-
many in establishing a "paper
blockade" around the coasts of
England, Scotland and France, and
a portion of Holland. These rep-
resentations, it is understood, are
now being prepared in the State
Department and soon will be sent
to Ambassador Gerard at Berlin.

It is the contention of many of-
ficials that the German decrees
violates every principle of inter-
national law, set up and fought for
by this country in behalf of the
rights of neutral commerce, by
threatening destruction to every
neutral ship which fails to observe
the blockade. The belief grows ap-
parently in the minds of many of-
ficials that Germany, made des-
perate, is trying to drag the United
States into the war.

Drop In Wheat Expected.

It is expected that one of the first
effects of the decree will be to cause

America Faces Gravest Peril of War As Result Of Germany's Blockade

**Declaration Making Waters Surrounding the British
Islands, North of France, and Holland a War
Zone Causes Perplexing Foreign Com-
plication—Act an Experiment.**

By JUDSON C. WELLIVER.

Never since the present war began has the danger of for-
eign complications involving the United States been so serious as it is
now, following the German admiralty's declaration that the waters
surrounding the British Islands, the north of France, and neutral Hol-
land, will after February 18 constitute a "zone of war."

The owner or commander of an American ship sailing from New
York to Rotterdam, for instance—both being ports of neutral powers
—will seek in vain for exact information as to what constitutes a zone
of war.

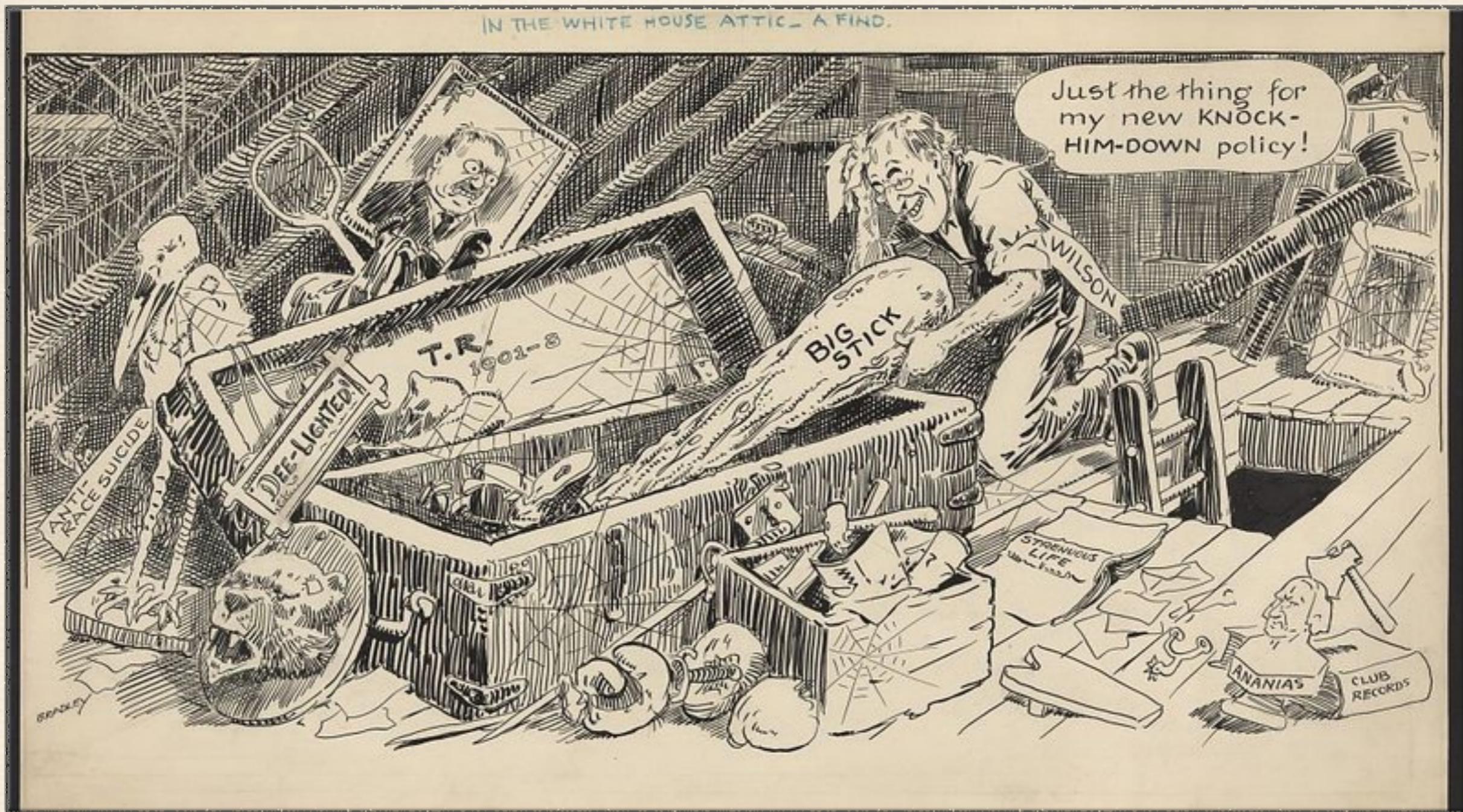
If it were a question of transacting commerce by land the ques-
tion would not be so difficult. The zone of war in land campaigning
is a definitely understood affair. Anybody who enters it does so at
his peril. He may be hit by a bullet, or regarded as a spy. But
such an institution as a zone of war on the seas, which three miles
from land are esteemed the property of no nation, is unknown.

NOT SAME AS BLOCKADE.

A zone of war cannot be equivalent to a blockade, for two reasons. One is
the misuse of neutral flags ordered by the
British government on January 31.
that if Germany had meant to declare
a blockade, she would have said so.
There was no need to invent a new
What that statement means is not very
clear. No such orders from the British

❖ President Wilson demanded an apology from the Germans for the sinking of the Lusitania and assurances that there would not be similar incidents in the future.

❖ Not wanting the United States to enter on the side of the Allies, the Germans complied with Wilson's requests in September 1915 by agreeing not to attack passenger ships. The United States was able to stay out of the war for another two years.



Library of Congress

A Stern Condemnation

From the May 18, 1916, edition of the Chicago Daily News, a satirical portrayal of President Woodrow Wilson getting tough with his foreign policy toward Germany. While most of Europe was involved in war, the United States had long tried to maintain a policy of neutrality.



A Fatal Voyage

The Historical Significance of the RMS Lusitania's Transatlantic Voyage

Run Time: 7 Minutes [Video](#)

A Prophetic Caution

An Urging to Maintain Neutrality

“It is not likely that either side will win so complete a victory as to be able to dictate terms, and if either side does win such a victory it will probably mean preparation for another war. It would seem better to look for a more rational basis for peace.”

*—William Jennings Bryan
Secretary of State to President Woodrow Wilson*

Extension Activity: The Military Lens

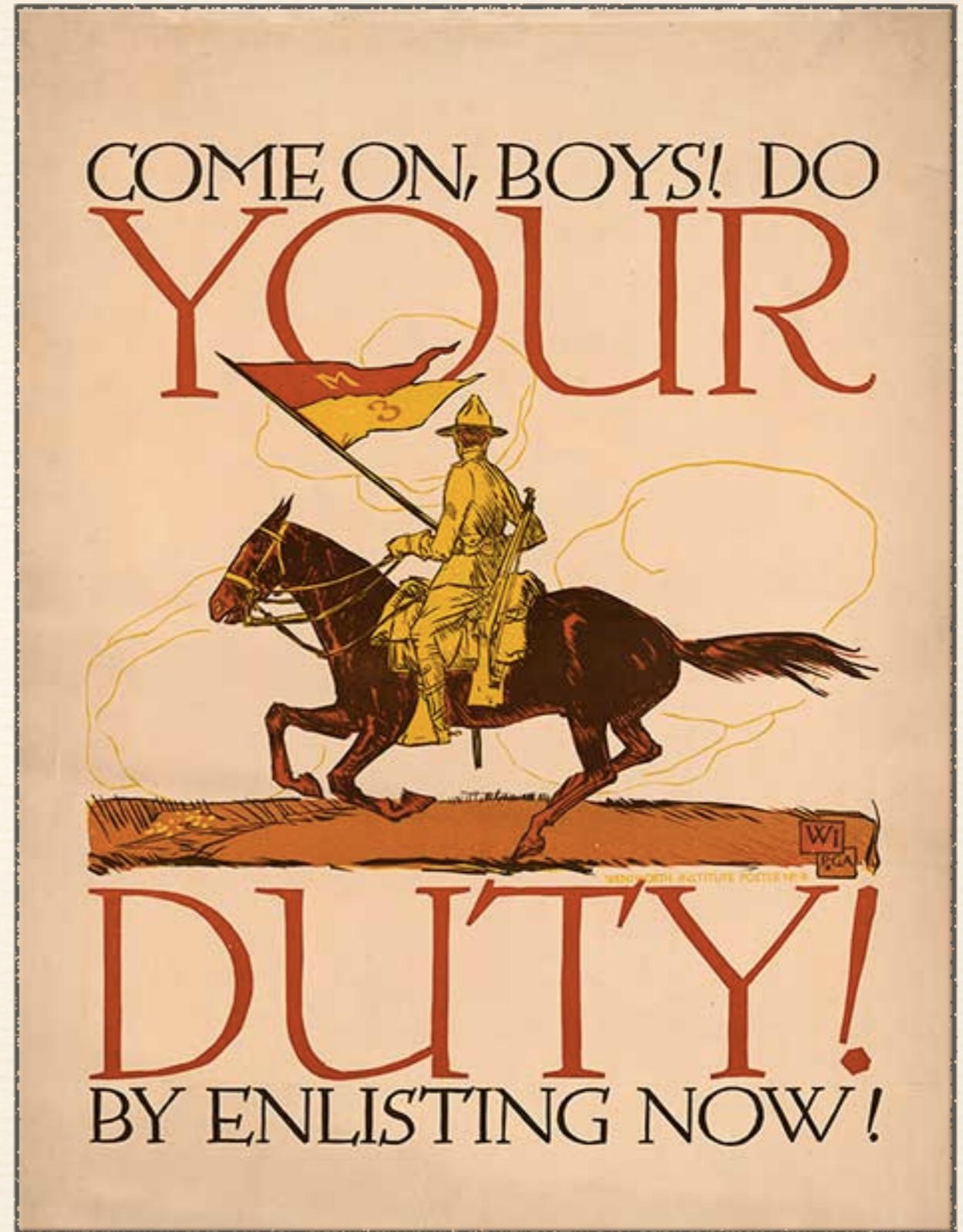
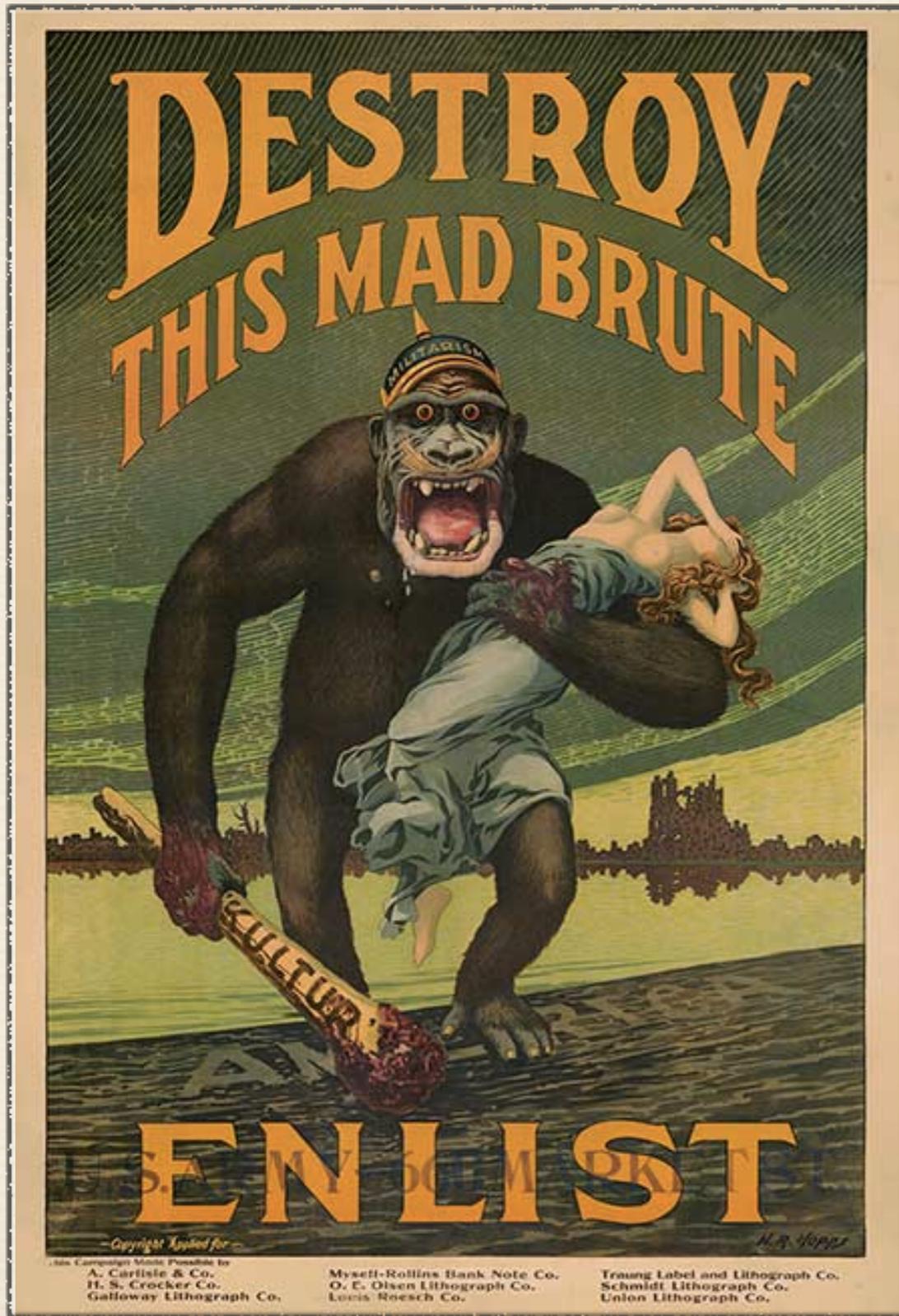
Music and Media Propaganda as Recruitment Tools

The Draft

Conscription, Enlistment & Conscientious Objectors in the U.S. Military

- ❖ In previous conflicts such as the Civil War, the United States had utilized conscription. World War I, however, marked the first time the nation's military raised its army primarily through a draft.
- ❖ To balance federal power with state autonomy, local civilian draft boards administered the selective service system. A national campaign utilizing posters, printed materials, films, and music helped the government convey the legal requirement for men to register with the selective service or to enlist.
- ❖ It was a struggle for officials to forge a unified fighting force from a segregated military consisting mostly of native-born whites, American Indians, and African Americans, along with large numbers of immigrants.
- ❖ The draft raised questions about patriotism and the obligations of citizenship, especially the duty to serve.
- ❖ The U.S. War Department created the status of "conscientious objector" for Americans who viewed military service as a violation of their religious, ethical, or political beliefs.

Enlistment



Patriotic Duty

Uncle Sam asks: "What are YOU doing for Preparedness?"

- ❖ The Committee on Public Information was created as an independent government agency to influence public opinion supporting U.S. participation in World War I.
- ❖ Enlistment posters were intended to rouse American audiences against the German militarism threat to American liberty.
- ❖ Specific imagery was used to appeal to local populations by using regional language and distributed in targeted geographic regions to prompt immigrants to join the military.
- ❖ President Wilson and his advisers believed the war was an opportunity to reconstruct America domestically to better benefit average Americans while also reshaping international relations into a durable peace.





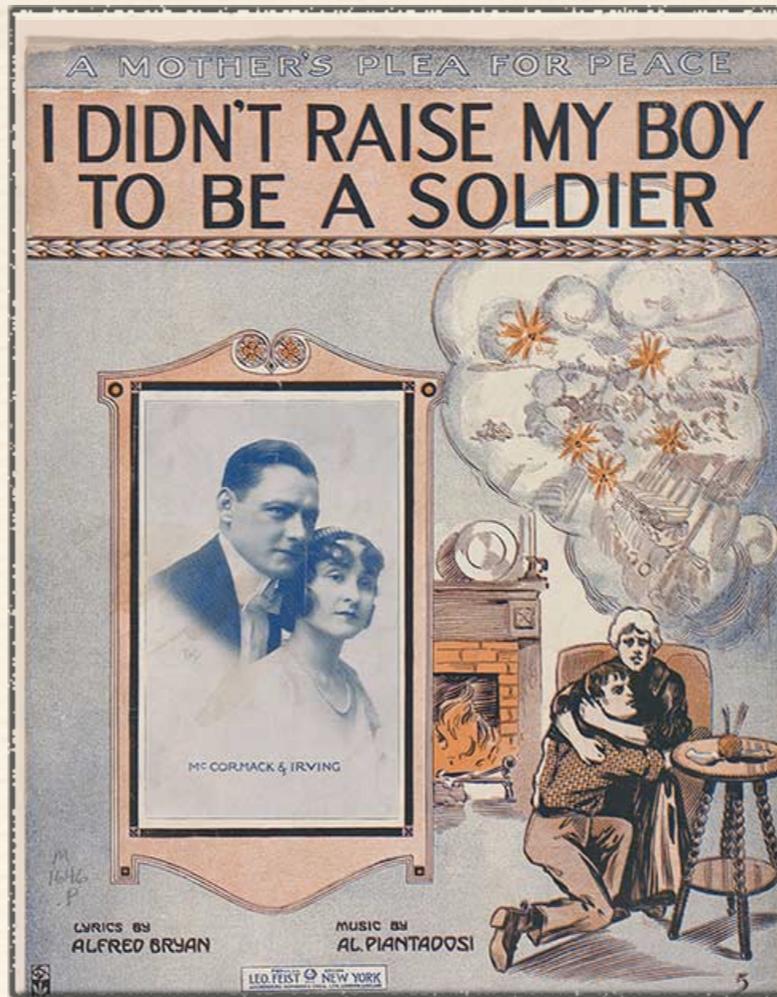
Growing an Army

Silent footage showing the enlistment, training, and equipping of soldiers during WWI

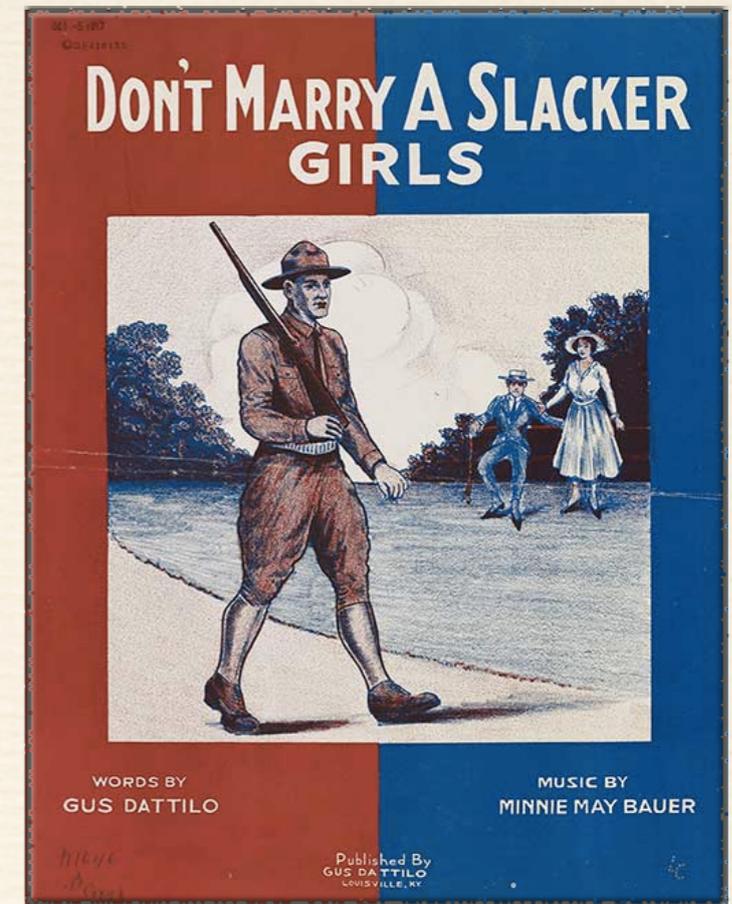
Run Time: 11 Minutes [Video](#)



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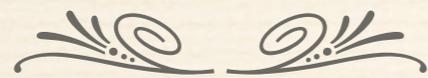
Library of Congress



Library of Congress

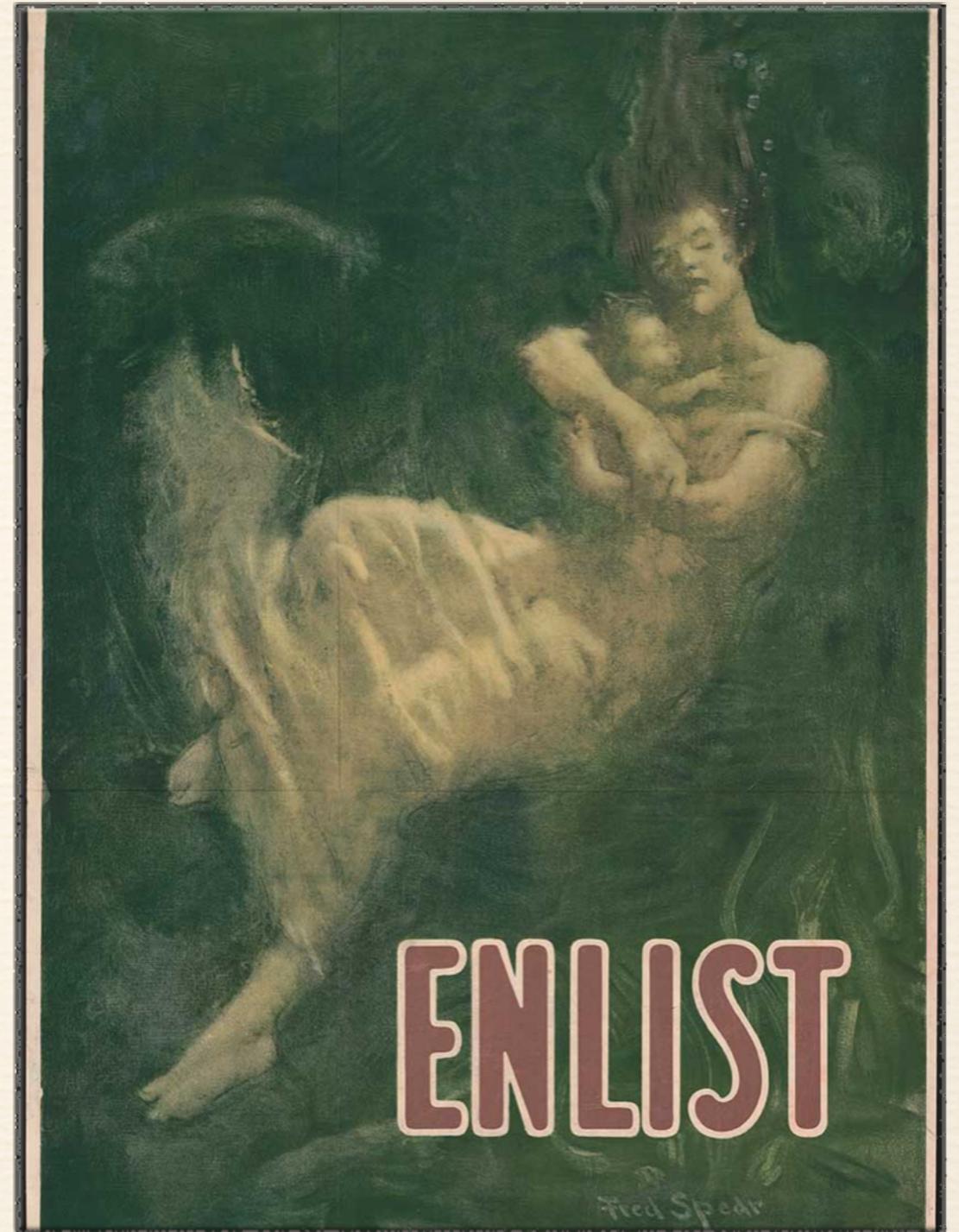
Raising an Army

The sinking of the
Lusitania was used as a
stirring military
recruitment tool

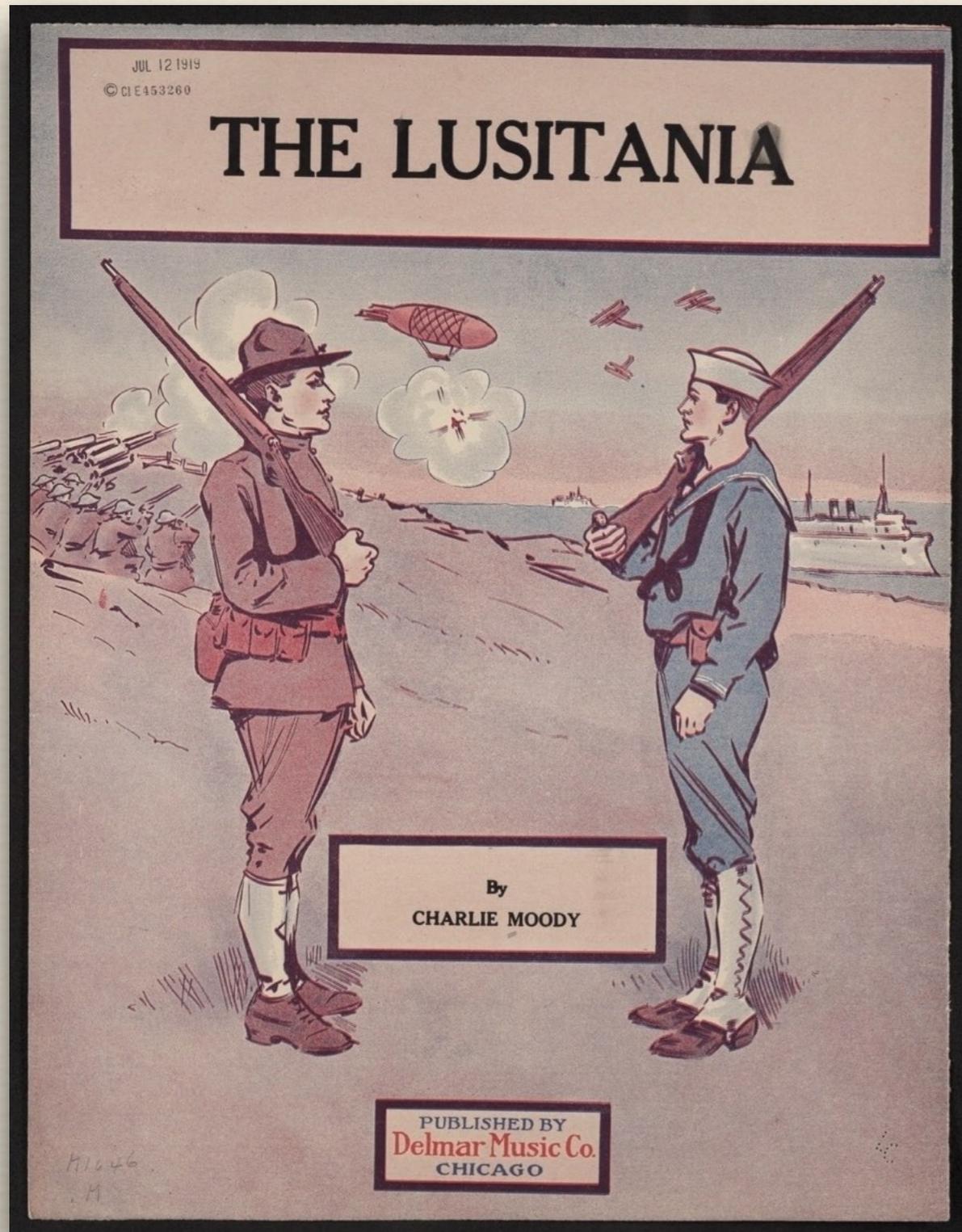


*The haunting image of a mother and infant
sinking into the sea is based on news accounts
from the time of the recovered dead:*

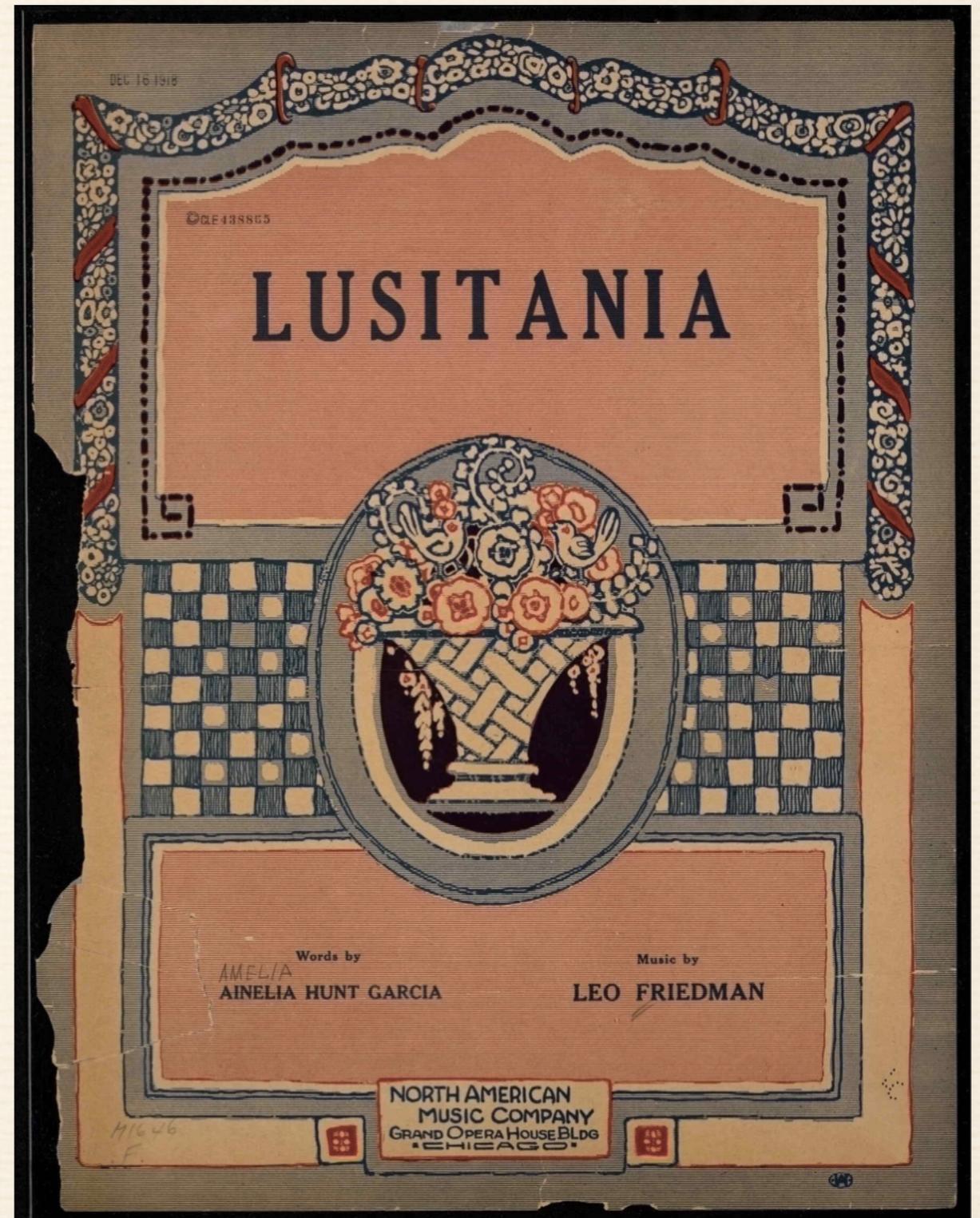
*“Most of the bodies there are women.... At the
Cunard Wharf lies a mother still clasping in her
arms the body of her 3-month-old baby.”*



Powerful Propaganda



Library of Congress



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Powerful Propaganda

Music as a Motivator and form of Protest

THE LUSITANIA

CHARLIE MOODY

Intro. Slowly
mf

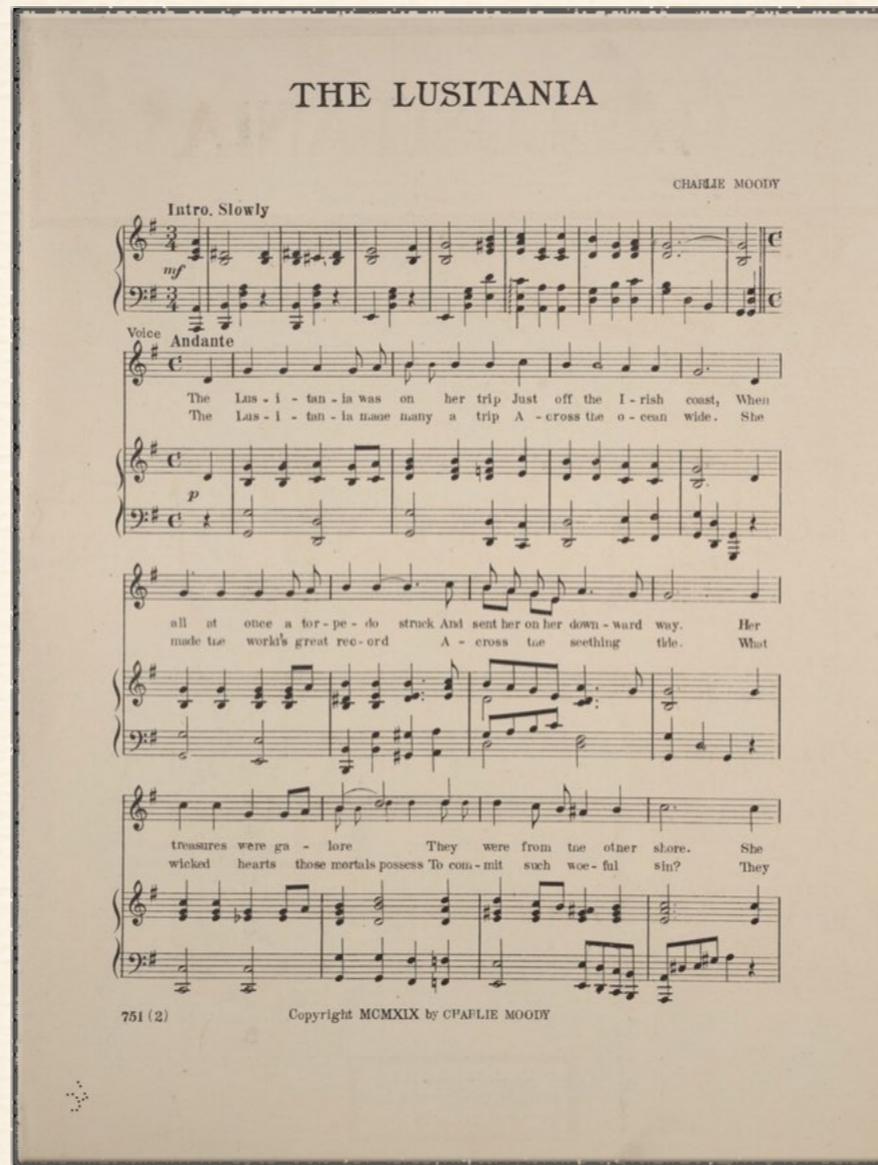
Voice
Andante

The Lus - i - tan - ia was on her trip Just off the I - rish coast, When
The Lus - i - tan - ia made many a trip A - cross the o - cean wide. She

all at once a tor - pe - do struck And sent her on her down - ward way. Her
made the world's great rec - ord A - cross the seething tide. What

treasures were ga - lore They were from the other shore. She
wicked hearts those mortals possess To con - mit such woe - ful sin? They

751 (2) Copyright MCMXIX by CHARLIE MOODY



Library of Congress

World War I Era Sheet Music 

World War I Era Sheet Music 

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