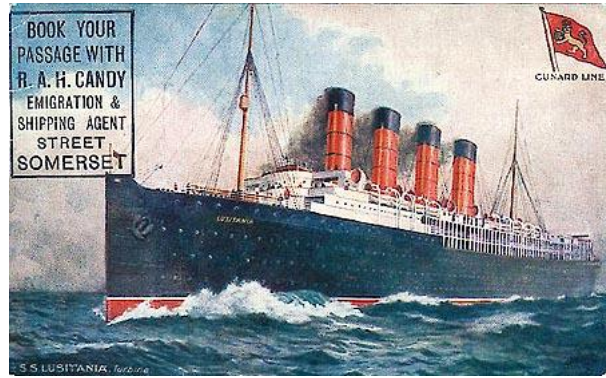


0. Lusitania Sinking - Story Preface

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This vintage postcard depicts a view of the *Lusitania*, a Cunard-line ship. A fast vessel, *Lusitania* routinely crossed the Atlantic between New York City and Liverpool (where she was based) between 1907 and 1915. She was Liverpool's "most-famous ship."

NOTICE!

Travellers 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.

Imperial German Embassy
Washington, D.C.
April 22, 1915

Published in Newspapers on May 1, 1915

Germany and Great Britain were at war. So were most of the other countries of Europe.

The United States, wanting to remain neutral, had not yet entered World War I. But the Imperial Government of Kaiser Wilhelm II had issued a dire warning to American citizens: Stay out of the waters around the British Isles. Those waters included the Irish Sea.

How many of the 1959 people on board the Lusitania on May 7, 1915 knew about Germany's threat to sink non-military ships?

Of those who knew, how many really believed that women and children would be treated like front-line soldiers of war?

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Lusitania-Sinking)
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Lusitania-Sinking>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Lusitania-Sinking)
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Lusitania-Sinking>

Questions 2 Ponder

Is a Warning Enough to Extinguish Guilt?

On the 22nd of April, 1915, Germany issues a warning to all travelers not to sail in the waters near Britain. Fifteen days later, a German U-boat sinks the Lusitania, killing 1,198 people.

The German warning is not printed in newspapers until May 1, 1915 - the day Lusitania leaves New York City for her transatlantic crossing. Although the ship departs two hours late, we are left to wonder whether all the passengers actually knew about the warning.

If you were booked on a ship like the Lusitania, which received warning of a possible sinking en route, how would you view the threat?

Would the threat, as actually issued by the German Embassy, be enough to cause you to leave the ship? Why, or why not?

When Lusitania sank, she lost 1,198 men, women and children. Who was responsible for all those deaths?

Was the warning, issued by Germany's embassy, enough to extinguish any responsibility Germany may have had for the sinking and the loss of so many lives? Explain your answer.

Do you view Germany's warning any differently than you would view the threat of death from an armed robber or a terrorist? Why, or why not?

Media Stream



Lusitania in Port

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lusitania-in-Port>

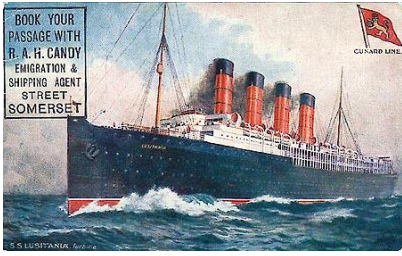


Drawing of Children of the Lusitania

Image online, courtesy the Wolfsonian-FIU Rare Books and Special Collections Library blog site.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Drawing-of-Children-of-the-Lusitania>



Lusitania Sinking

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