# AWESOME stories

- 0. VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS Story Preface
- 1. A WORLD AT WAR
- 2. THE LUSITANIA
- 3. MUNITIONS ON BOARD?
- 4. A TERRIBLE COINCIDENCE
- 5. TORPEDO ATTACK on LUSITANIA
- 6. DEATH OF A SHIP
- 7. VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS
- 8. AMMUNITION ON BOARD?
- 9. WAR MOMS
- 10. A BELLIGERENT MILITARY
- 11. FATAL RUMORS
- 12. ALL IN THE FAMILY
- 13. AMERICA ENTERS WWI
- 14. THE WAR EFFORT
- 15. END OF THE WAR

This photo image, depicting coffins of *Lusitania* victims transported by horse-drawn carriage, was likely taken in Queenstown (now known as Cobh) in County Cork, Ireland. Many victims of the disaster are buried in mass graves in the <u>Old Church Cemetery</u>. Courtesy, On-line Journal of Research on Irish Maritime History. Click on the image for a better view.

Before he returned *U-20* to her Fastnet course, Schwieger watched the horror on board the ship he had fatally wounded. He <u>wrote</u> in his war diary:

It looks as if the ship will stay afloat only for a very short time. [I gave order to] dive to 25 metres and leave the area seawards. I couldn't have fired another torpedo into this mass of humans desperately trying to save themselves.

Not many saved themselves, though. It was reported that 1,198 died. A survivor, Barbara Anderson McDermott, was <u>one</u> of thirty-two children on board. All but four perished. Mrs. <u>McDermott</u> still recalls the horror:

*It* [the torpedo] went through the front of the boat so the water was naturally going in fast and all those people who were down there [in the lower decks] were getting drowned.

The *Bluebell* rescued Captain Turner and other survivors. Most bodies were never recovered. Some of the victims could not be identified.

Many <u>people</u> were buried in mass graves in Queenstown/Cobh. The <u>horrifying sight</u> of coffins on top of coffins must have been overwhelming. One grave alone contained <u>sixty-six coffins</u>.

Germany, despite the shock of people around the world, was unapologetic. The German government had issued its warning. Their actions were justified, they said, because they believed the ship was carrying arms which would have been used to kill Germans.

But was the ship carrying arms?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/VICTIMS-AND-SURVIVORS-Lusitania-Sinking

#### See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/VICTIMS-AND-SURVIVORS-Lusitania-Sinking



## VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

## Questions 2 Ponder

### Does Morality Play a Role on the Battlefield?

When a German U-boat captain saw a sea of people trying to save themselves, he did not fire a second torpedo at *Lusitania* on the 7th of May, 1915.

Kapitan-Leutnant (Kptlt) Walther Schwieger wrote these words in his diary:

I couldn't have fired another torpedo into this mass of humans desperately trying to save themselves.

Schwieger, a navy man whose battlefield was the Atlantic Ocean, could have fired another torpedo at the ship. Do you think he declined to do it because his concept of morality made him take a different course of action?

When you hear that *Lusitania's* passengers and crew were "desperately trying to save themselves," what does that mean to you?

Have you ever been in a situation where people were "desperately trying to save themselves?" What were those circumstances?

**Burial of Lusitania Victims** 

## Media Stream



## Image online, courtesy ww1-propaganda-cards.com website. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Burial-of-Lusitania-Victims



#### Lusitania Survivor - Mrs. McDermott

Image online via Life Legacy. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lusitania-Survivor-Mrs.-McDermott



<u>Mass Graves in Queenstown</u> Image online, courtesy the temakel.net website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mass-Graves-in-Queenstown</u>



<u>Rescue Operations</u> Image online, courtesy the ww1-propaganda-cards.com website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rescue-Operations</u>



## VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

View this asset at: <a href="http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/">http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/</a>