

A judicial inquiry into the reasons for the wreck was headed by Lord Mersey, a fair man.

Captain Turner, by this time, was greatly reviled by many. Why did he put *Lusitania* at risk? Why didn't he quickly get his ship to Liverpool instead of slowing-down near the southern coast of Ireland?

Why? Why? And ... why not?

A key part of the inquiry was whether the captain had disobeyed orders - or - whether he had acted reasonably under the circumstances.

The traumatized captain was questioned about instructions he no longer recalled. The Admiralty sent two of its best lawyers to put Turner, among others, through withering cross-examinations.

The British Admiralty was anxious to avoid responsibility in *Lusitania*'s fate. Some of the issues, involving its own decisions, were significant. For example ... why did the Admiralty:

- Fail to provide *Lusitania* with an escort?
- Fail to give *Lusitania*'s officers adequate warnings about U-boat activity?
- Fail to explain how *Lusitania*'s civilian crew could avoid the danger of lurking German submarines?

Behind the scenes, using quiet voices in a kind of negative whispering campaign, members of the Admiralty were questioning Captain Turner's seamanship. And ... of course ... why did *he* survive when thousands of others died? Isn't the Captain supposed to go down with the ship?

Lord Mersey, less concerned about political implications than getting to the truth, was intent that the hearing would not castigate Turner unless the evidence required such a result.

See, also:

[Lusitania - Record-setting Ship](#)

[Lusitania - Luxury at Sea](#)

[Lusitania - At Sea, Before the Torpedo Strike](#)

[Lusitania - U-20 Patrols the North Atlantic](#)

[Lusitania - In a Position of Peril](#)

[Lusitania - Torpedoed by U-20](#)

[Lusitania - Explosion](#)

[Lusitania - Disaster at Sea](#)

[Lusitania - Sinking and Aftermath](#)

[Lusitania - Wreck Inquiry Findings](#)

Credits:

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