

WORLD WAR ONE  
THE FINAL CHAPTERS



# 1917 Tidal Shift

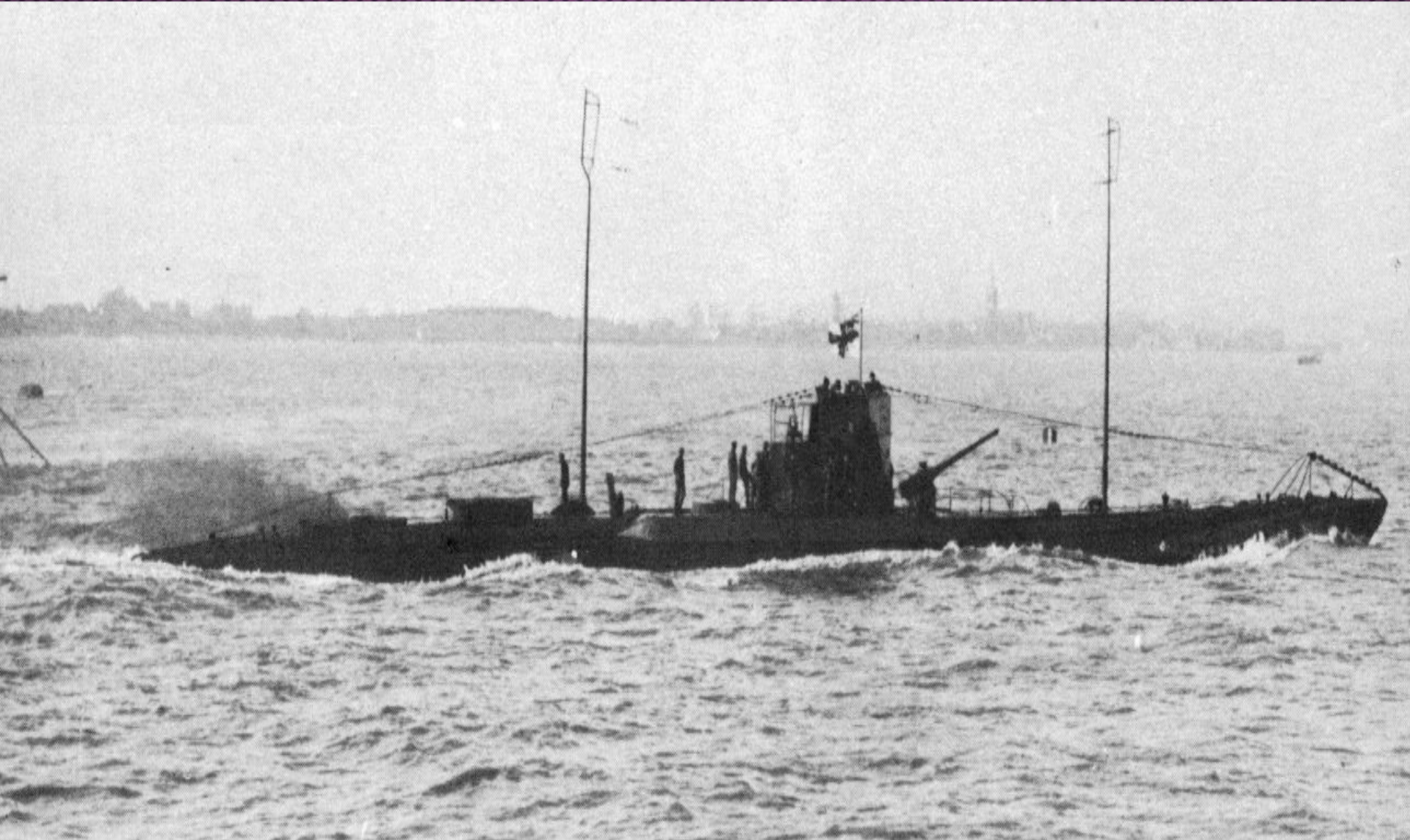
## USA

- Remained neutral through the war, yet benefitting financially; factories working full tilt
- Sinking of the Lusitania, 1915
- Interception of the Zimmerman telegrams – Mexico to Germany
- April, 1917 – USA declares war on Germany

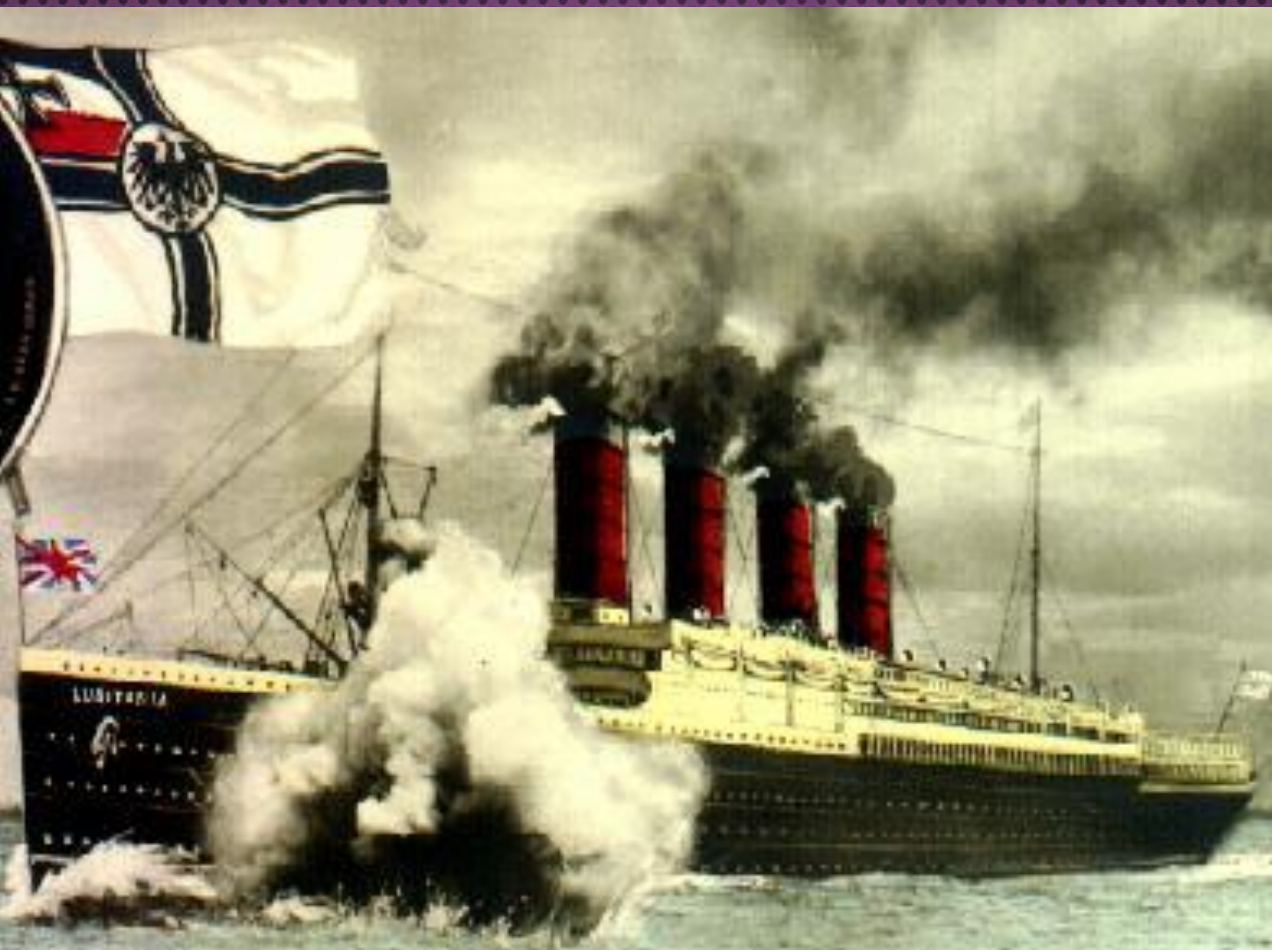
## Russia

- Ruled by the Tsar (king) & the Russian peoples are not happy
- Rise of Bolshevism lead by Lenin
- Promised 'peace & bread' to a war weary nation, in exchange for support
- Workers revolt in March '17
- Rise of Communism
- Russia (USSR) pulls out of war
- Eastern Front collapses by the end of '17







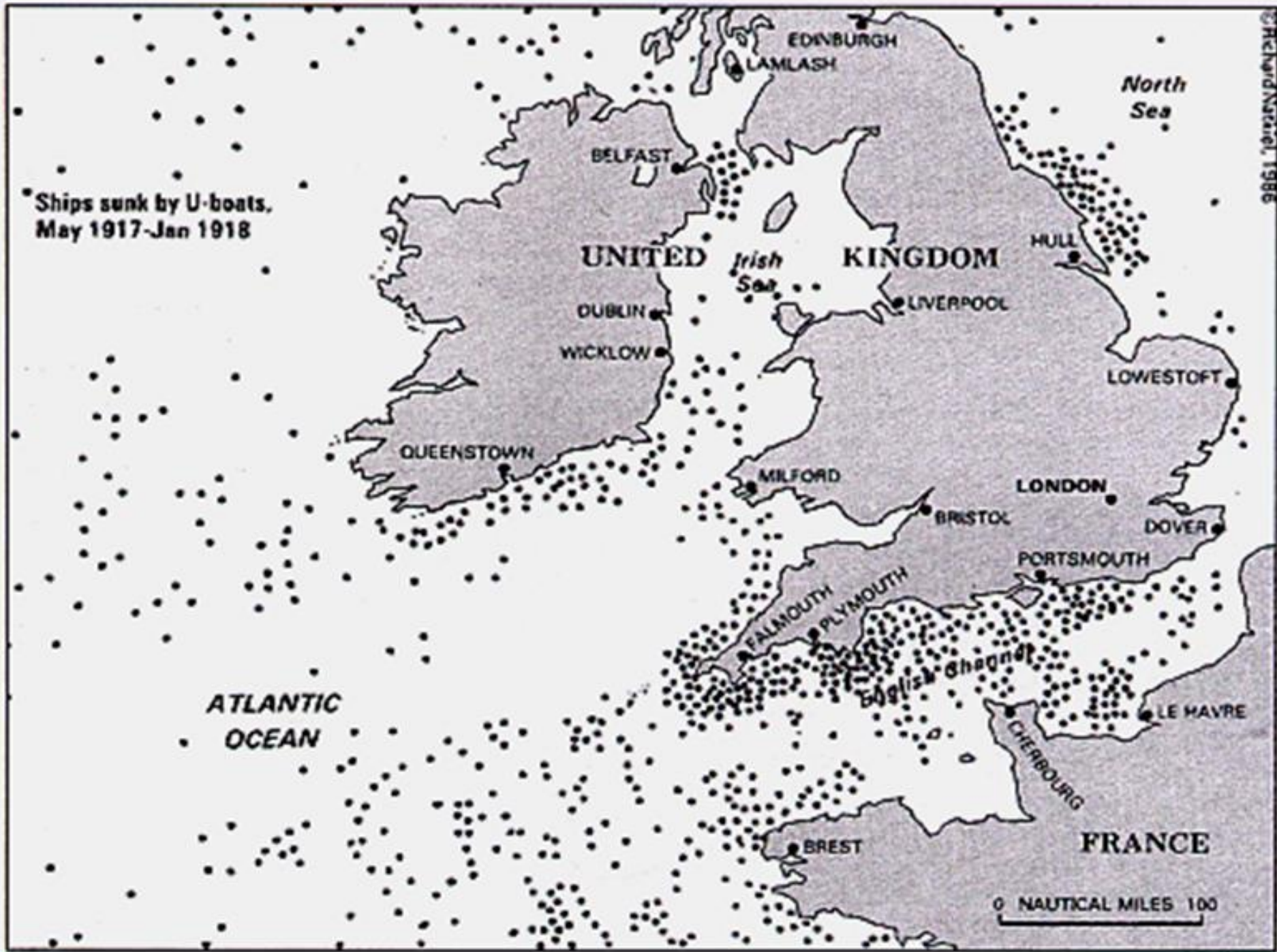


Queenstown, 7. Mai 1915.

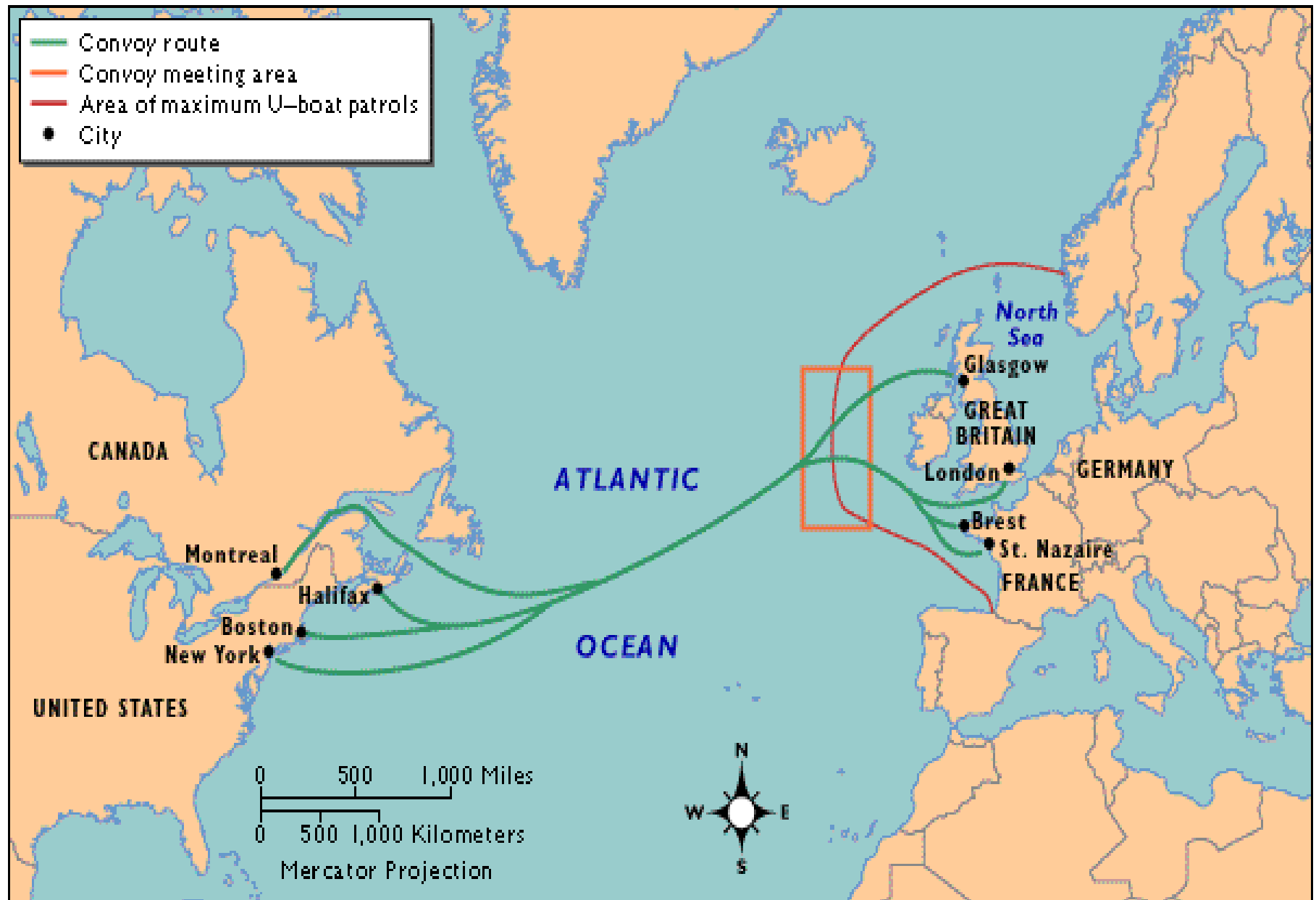
Der Cunarddampfer „Lusitania“ ist torpediert worden und gesunken.



**Ships sunk by U-boats,  
May 1917-Jan 1918**



# Convoy System





## The Final Push

- Operation Michael – The Central Powers launched an all out offensive in hopes of victory before US reinforcements could arrive
  - Soldiers moved over from the Eastern Front
  - German troops pushed swiftly and successfully reclaiming much of the territory that was earlier lost – Somme, Ypres, Passchendaele, ...
  - Came within 75 km of Paris – but the pace was far too great and exhaustion, reinforcement and supplies were running out



## Hundred Day Campaign

- Allied forces entered a military 'push back'
- Canadians were at the forefront of this effort for many battles against the retreating Germans, gaining much respect and recognition
- Our troops defeated  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the entire German army through these final battles of WW I
- The Central Powers were collapsing – and the Generals knew the war was over. Germany could no longer defend from the allied attack



# Armistice

- A truce (or armistice) was signed to take effect at 11:00 am, November 11, 1918 (Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Month on the Eleventh Day)
- Although the treaty is signed at 6:00 am – it didn't take effect for another 5 hours – many hundreds were killed or injured in this time period
- Canada's George Price was the last known fatality of WWI, shot and killed at 10:58am in northern France







## Canadians Return

- Most assumed that following the armistice there would be a quick return of the soldiers from Europe to a hero's welcome
- The Cdn gov't was slow to bring them back, most were stuck in the U.K. waiting for transport ships
- Not exactly the return they had envisioned, given their sacrifice
  - No hero's ticker-tape parade was awaiting them
- And when they finally did arrive, they found a much changed Canada
  - Heavy inflation – Canada had become an expensive place
  - No jobs as production demands were obviously gone
  - Women were part of the work force
  - No liquor



## Influenza

- Returning vets inadvertently brought the deadly Spanish Flu Influenza virus back with them.
  - Young people were especially susceptible which caused an estimated 22 million deaths (more than the war itself)
  - Between 1918 ~ 1920 approximately 50,000 Canadians died
  - Schools and public places were closed for months
  - Many people wore breathing masks as a personal line of defense

