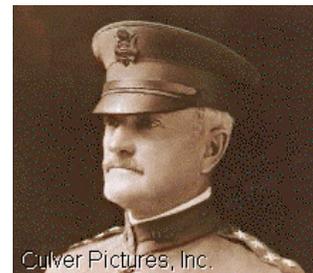


Russian Withdrawal & U.S. Entry into the War

- **Lusitania** - A British ship owned by the Cunard Line - launched 1907
 - **Big** - 785 ft. long
 - **Distinctive look** - four funnels
 - **Fast** - Could do 25 knots (nautical miles per hour)
 - **May 1915** - N. Y. to England route
 - **Germans warned passengers not to sail on British ships**
 - Took out ads in U.S. papers
- **Lusitania sinks on May 7, 1915 at 2:10 p.m.**
 - Off the coast of Ireland in an area of high submarine activity
 - Capt. Turner orders the ship to slow as it approached coast
- **Submarine (U-boat) - U-20 under Capt. Walter Schwieger**
 - Reported that he fired 1 torpedo from 750 yards
 - Hits the ship - a huge explosion erupts
 - **Lusitania sinks in 18 minutes**
 - 1198 dead including **128 Americans**
 - **Germans claimed British shipped weapons in the ship - True**
- **Sinking hurt U.S. / German relations**
 - Germans pledged not to sink further ships w/out warning
 - They break the pledge - **unrestricted submarine warfare**
- War at Sea
 - **Battle of Jutland (May 1916) – only major sea battle of the war**
 - British Admiral Jellicoe
 - German Admiral Scheer
 - **Attempt by Germans to break allied blockade of Germany**
 - Fought to a draw
 - English lost more ships (14 vs 11) but Germans withdrew
 - Did not challenge the blockade again
- Eastern Front
 - **Battle of Tannenburg (Aug. 26-30, 1914)**
 - **Russians attacked Germany to relieve the pressure on French** - divert German troops
 - 250,000 Russians killed



- German commanders - Ludendorff, Hindenburg
 - Was enough to prevent a German breakthrough in the West
- Russians suffer incredible losses in the East
 - Poorly trained, armed, & led
 - By 1917, they were pushed back deep into Russia by the Germans
 - Russian Revolution began in 1917, largely because of the war
 - Communists promised to pull Russia out of the war if they came into power
 - By March 1918, Russia signs Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
 - A very harsh treaty - Russia had to give up a lot territory to Central Powers
 - With Russia out of the war - no second front for Germany to fight
- The United States attempted to stay neutral
 - Several events drew U.S. into the fight
 - Unrestricted submarine warfare (including sinking Lusitania)
 - Would sink any ship in British waters without warning
 - Zimmerman Telegram
 - Feb. 1917 - letter from German foreign secretary Arthur Zimmerman to German minister in Mexico
 - Intercepted by Britain, decoded, and sent to U.S.
 - Germans would offer to help Mex. get back lands lost to U.S. if they helped Germany
 - Americans outraged - declare war against Germany on April 6, 1917
 - U.S. forces known as the AEF (American Expeditionary Force)
 - Led by General John J. Pershing
 - U.S. troops began to arrive in Europe by June, 1917
 - 2 million troops by 1918
 - Play major role in fighting by Spring 1918



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