



THE GLOBAL WAR: JUST OFF OUR SHORES

The First World War was truly a global war. There was barely any corner of the globe that it did not touch in some way: whether combatants or supporters, the network of alliances and empires at the time drew in every continent.

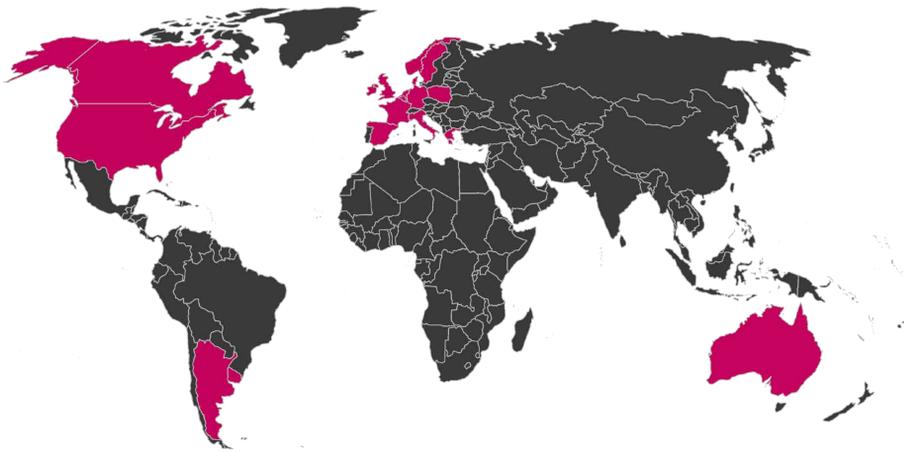
From all over the world

On the south coast there are vessels from 18 different countries, and many of an unknown origin. The crews of these ships often originated from an even wider range of countries. Merchant vessels transported cargo all around the world and often took on crew from the ports they called at. Many ships had multinational crews, some of whom even originated from neutral countries but remained loyal to their vessel despite the outbreak of war.

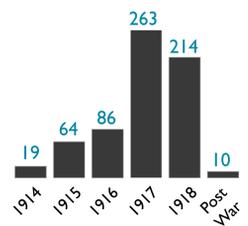
The SS *Aperima* is just one of many ship where the crew came from all over the world. When torpedoed off Anvil Point, Dorset, by SM UB-40 in November 1917, approximately half of the 110 strong crew were lost. Casualties included men from Australia, New Zealand, Britain and India.

Known ship nationalities within project area:

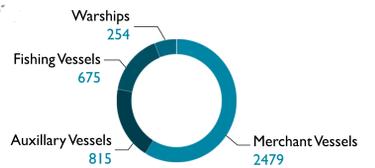
American	7
Argentinian	1
Australian	1
Belgian	7
British	424
Canadian	2
Danish	9
Dutch	2
French	39
German	49
Greek	1
Irish	1
Italian	6
Norwegian	66
Polish	1
Spanish	4
Swedish	5
Uruguayan	1



Known ship losses per year within the project area:



Known types of British ships lost around the world during the First World War:



From all walks of life

Young, old, male, female, from dock workers to seamstresses and everything in between, the First World War saw the involvement of entire nations. With a pressing need for workers and sailors, pre-war roles often changed and people came from all walks of life to help the war effort and earn a living.

The SS *South Western*, a Southampton based steamer was bound for St Malo, France, with a general cargo and 4 passengers when, on the night of 16th March 1918, it was torpedoed by the U-boat SM UB-59 south of the Isle of Wight. Aboard were people from 15 to 61 years old, from its home port, Southampton, and as far off as Trinidad.

Only six people survived the sinking. Amongst the 29 casualties were:



Wilhelmina Burton

A 61 year old mother of six from Southampton, widowed and working as a stewardess.



Horace Edward Newton

A 15 year old deck boy.



Yves Le Gac

A pilot 1st class, born in Coatascorn, France.



Joseph Albert Gomes

A 25 year old born in Trinidad who had married Ethel Schooling of Southampton in 1915.



William Fielding

A 34 year old Able Seaman from Jersey.



E B Cochrane

A 36 year old stewardess from Limerick, Ireland.



Background Image: Willie Stower, 1915



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