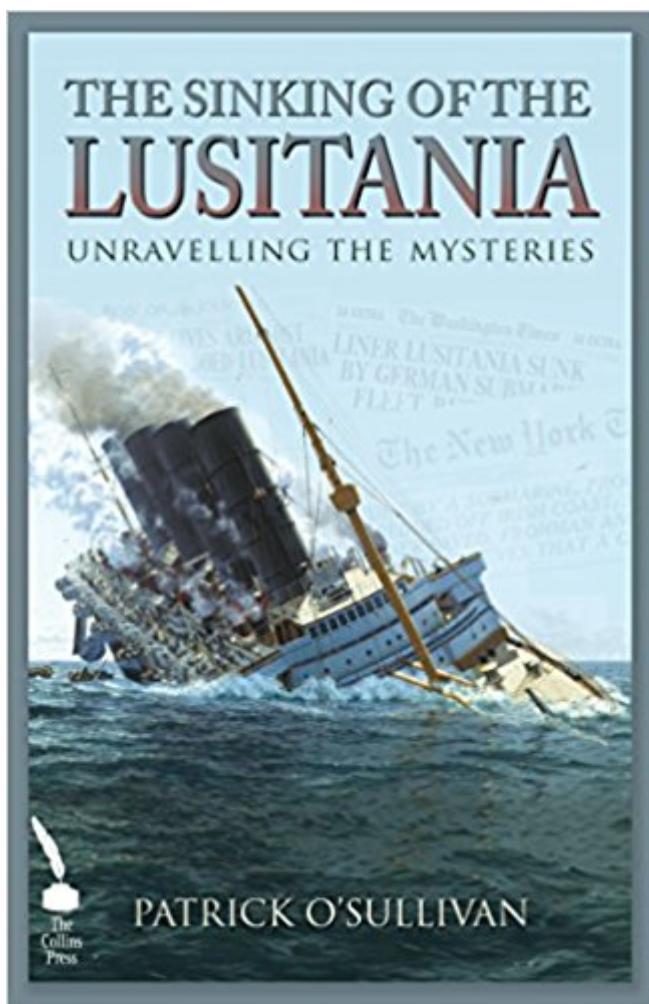


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# The Sinking Of The Lusitania: Unravelling The Mysteries



## **Synopsis**

In May 1915, the RMS Lusitania, then the world's fastest liner, departed from New York. Seven days later she was torpedoed off the Irish coast with the loss of 1,198 lives. Suspected by the Germans of carrying clandestine munitions to Britain, the great ship steamed into a fatal encounter with the German submarine U-20. One of the largest naval disasters in history, it was a factor in bringing America into the First World War. Patrick O'Sullivan presents the complete story of the Lusitania a. air, exploring the cover-ups and the theories on what caused the baffling second explosion. His meticulous research reveals the most compelling explanation to date. This is a fascinating account of one of the First World War's most reported-on atrocities.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is a very well researched account of the events of, prior to, and after the foreboding and sinking of the Lusitania. The author does a good job covering the political implications on both sides, as well as the possible explanations for the rigged investigations afterwards. One area of new findings are

the very probable reason for the source of the second, larger explosion, which is probably the reason why such a large ship went down in just 20 minutes from just one torpedo hit. I won't divulge O'Sullivan's research, read the book to discover his findings. Other than this, it's a large compilation of facts which bogs down at times, I found Eric Larson's *Dead Wake* to be a more enjoyable reading experience.

This is an interesting factual account of the sinking of the Lusitania. I bought it as an alternative to Erik Larson's new novel.

Great book

offered accurate, intimate info

Some what repetitive . Not enough substance for a book .

wonderful

The Lusitania was a ship which was loved by a nation. State-of-the-art when launched and the very first passenger liner to be equipped with steam turbines, she immediately became the fastest liner on the North Atlantic. She was popular with passengers and a resounding commercial success. This was a ship that had everything. Suddenly, all that came to an abrupt end on 7 May 1915 when she was torpedoed and sunk. The reaction - both at home and abroad, was one of complete outrage. Although the loss of the *Titanic* - just 3 years earlier, was still very fresh in peoples minds, this was different. That earlier disaster had been an accident and those bodies had been buried in far-away Canada. This time they were buried in Ireland and the photographs of the day said it all. It was viewed as one of the most diabolical and savage acts of aggression of all time - and eventually helped bring America into the First World War. *The Sinking of the Lusitania; Unravelling the Mysteries* is packed full of solid information, facts, maps, paintings, photographs and even cartoons - all relevant to the time in question. In addition, the author's background reveals someone well-qualified to write a book such as this. It is a skilfully planned work in which he provides all the relevant information including various descriptions of this and other similar vessels in both their peacetime and wartime roles. Having set the scene he then moves on to the German submarine menace, British Intelligence and the code-breaking of the day as he carefully

and deliberately produces a fully detailed prelude to the sinking. It is here that we learn of other U Boat incidents off Ireland - which were never relayed to the Lusitania. Then we arrive at the tragedy itself and, of course, the aftermath. There are distressing photographs of dead children and heartbreaking stories of those who survived - often having lost all other members of their family. There is the grief that overwhelmed Ireland and photographs of both the memorial in Cobh and one or two of the more dramatic headstones - "Fouilly Murdered by Germany" and "Victim of the Lusitania Crime". Even the sham tribunals and the way in which blame was wrongly laid at the feet of the ship's master - Captain Bill Turner, in a bid to deflect public opinion away from government ineptitude are covered in fascinating detail. For those who were previously unaware, the fact that the ship was carrying munitions (as was common practise) is revealed - thus making the ship a justified target. Throughout the entire work, the author brings a semblance of sense to what happened almost 100 years ago and, therefore, fully justifies the book's title. This is a poignant and thought-provoking account and one that has been expertly crafted into a first-rate book. How sad the wreck itself has never been designated a "War Grave".

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