

REMEMBER THE LUSITANIA!
BY DIANA PRESTON

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award 2006 Nominee
Grades 6-8

Submitted by Elizabeth P. Dumas, School Librarian
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Title: Remember the Lusitania
Author: Diana Preston
Publisher: Walker & Co., 2003
Pages: 112

Summary

Remember the Lusitania! tells the story of one of the most pivotal and tragic events of World War I. The *Lusitania*, a luxury liner, was torpedoed by a German U-boat off the coast of Ireland on the afternoon of May 7, 1915. This was just 3 years after the sinking of the *Titanic*. Over 1,200 people were killed, including 128 Americans. This incident was instrumental in the U.S. decision to join the war 2 years later. This remarkable account of the shipboard experiences of three children who survived the disaster will intrigue young readers. Preston's remarkable storytelling includes vivid and thought-provoking details. Historical documents, firsthand accounts and personal interviews provide the basis for this enthralling account of one of the most disastrous shipwrecks in history and one of the most significant events of World War I.

Awards

Children's Literature Choice List, 2004
VOYA Nonfiction Honors List, 2004
Notable Children's Books, 2004; ALA
CBC-NCSS Notable Children's Trade Book in the field of Social Studies, 2004

Author's Biography

Remember the Lusitania! is Diana Preston's first book for children. It follows the publication of her best-selling book *Lusitania: An Epic Tragedy*, written for adults. Other popular books written by Preston are *The Boxer Rebellion* and *A First Rate Tragedy: Robert Falcon Scott and the Race to the South Pole*. Diana and her husband Michael Preston co-authored *A Pirate of Exquisite Mind*, a biography of the 17th-century British explorer, naturalist, pirate and buccaneer William Dampier. Diana Preston has been called a "fascinating" storyteller with "an obvious addiction to the details of history" (*The Washington Post*).

Diana Preston and her husband are avid travelers. They have traveled over several continents, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, tracked gorillas in Zaire and camped their way across the Namibian desert.

Related Titles

Ghost Liners: Exploring the World's Greatest Lost Ships by Robert Ballard

Ancient Shipwrecks by K.C. Smith

Dangerous Crossings by Carole Garbuny Vogel

World War I: The War to End Wars by Zachary Kent

The Causes of World War I by Tony Allan

Classroom Connections

- This book is excellent to use in American History during a unit about World War I. Students can use primary documents to analyze the causes and consequences of the sinking of the *Lusitania* from three perspectives, Great Britain, the United States and Germany. The following lesson plan provides links to primary documents and can be adapted for middle school level: Lesson Plan: The Sinking of the *Lusitania*
http://www.michigan.gov/scope/0,1607,7-155-13515_13521_13525-79022--,00.html
- Teachers can divide students into teams to research topics such as Construction of the *Lusitania*, Life Aboard the Ship, The Final Voyage, and The Aftermath by using the web site: *RMS Lusitania* (<http://www.lostliners.com/Liners/Cunard/Lusitania/index.html>). Students can present an oral report or create a poster or PowerPoint presentation to share their findings with the class. Following the presentations, the class can discuss:
 - The effect the sinking of the *Lusitania* had on Americans
 - Did Germany have any justification for attacking the ship? Various library resources can be used along with the following web sites listed below.

Web Sites

Feature Articles: *RMS Lusitania* – The Fateful Voyage

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/features/lusitania.htm>

Excellent article about the history of the ship. At the bottom of the article are links to the U.S. government's official protest to Germany, Germany's response to the protest of the sinking, and the British law court's review of the sinking.

Lusitania

<http://www.greatships.net/lusitania.html>

Web site features pictures of the *Lusitania*.

The Lusitania

http://www.click2disasters.com/lusitania/the_lusitania_ch1.htm

Simple explanation of the history of the *Lusitania* and its role in the history of World War I. Includes numerous links to pictures, drawings and other documents related to the sinking.

PBS Lost Liners: *The Lusitania*

<http://www.pbs.org/lostliners/lusitania.html>

This site includes an account of Robert Ballard's exploration of the *Lusitania* and his findings. The site also features other major lost liners in history. A chart is included for comparing the major ocean liners.

PBS Lost Liners: Teacher Resources

<http://www.pbs.org/lostliners/teacher.html>

Features activities that can be incorporated into the classroom: student investigations of the sinking of the *Lusitania*, major lost liners activities, hypothermia affects, and web scavenger hunts.

Sinking of the *Lusitania*: 1915

<http://campus.northpark.edu/history/WebChron/USA/Lusitania.html>

Brief article about the sinking of the ocean liner.