



# U.S. Entry into WWI notes



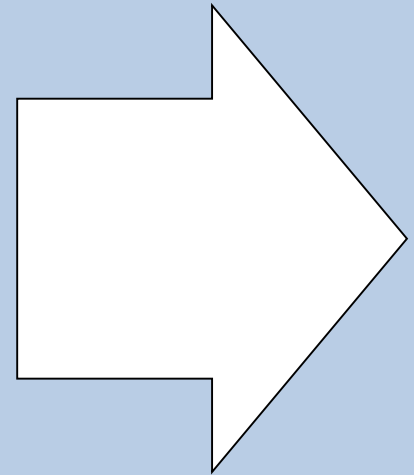
# U.S. Neutrality

- **Most Americans didn't want to get involved in WWI**
- **Divided loyalties:**
  - **B/c America is a melting pot—people were from both Allied and Central Power nations**
  - **Most economic ties were with Allies before & during war**
- **Both the Germans and British imposed naval blockades on each other**

# German Submarine Controversy

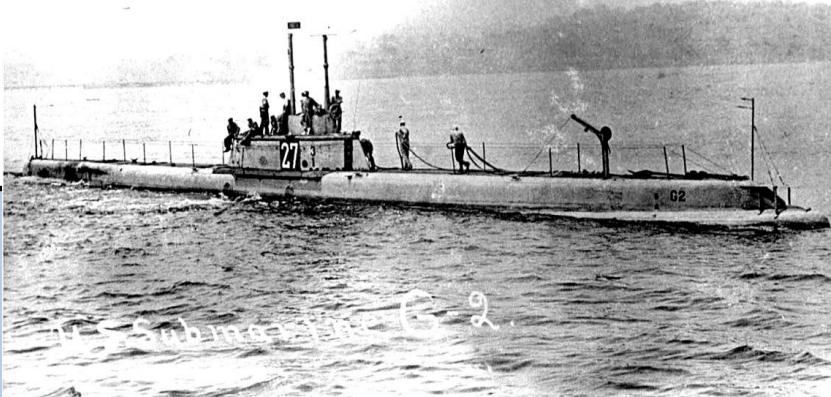
**1914-1915**

- **Germany used submarines (U-boats) to get around blockade**
- **Any ship found around Britain would be sunk**

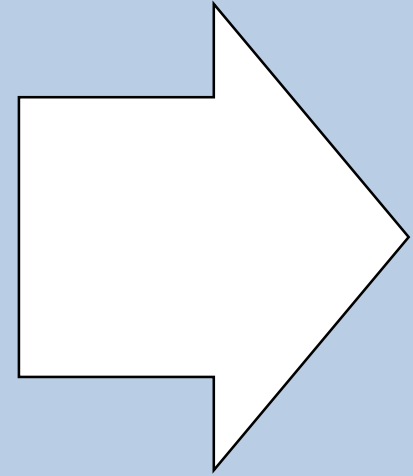


## 1915—Germany warns...

- **Any ships entering a war zone risked attack without warning**

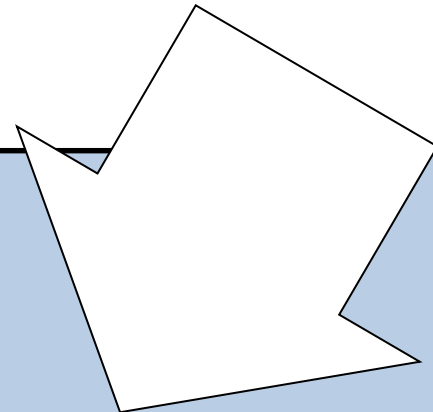


U.S. Submarine No. 27



# May 7, 1915

- **German U-boat attacked & sank **Lusitania****—British passenger liner
- **Killed all aboard—including **128 Americans****
- **Americans outraged**



R E M E M B E R T H E

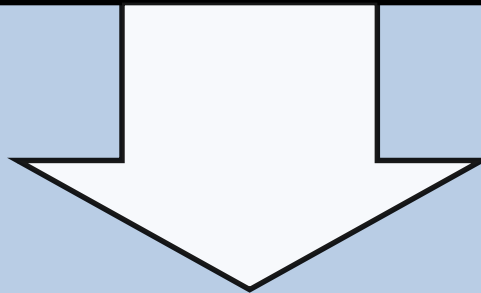
# LUSITANIA!



BY ALA FRELSON

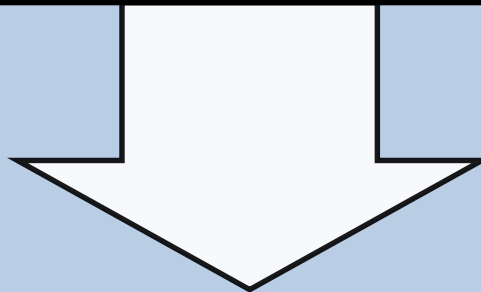
**President Wilson demands...**

**that Germany ends submarine attacks on  
unarmed ships**



## **Germans agree ...**

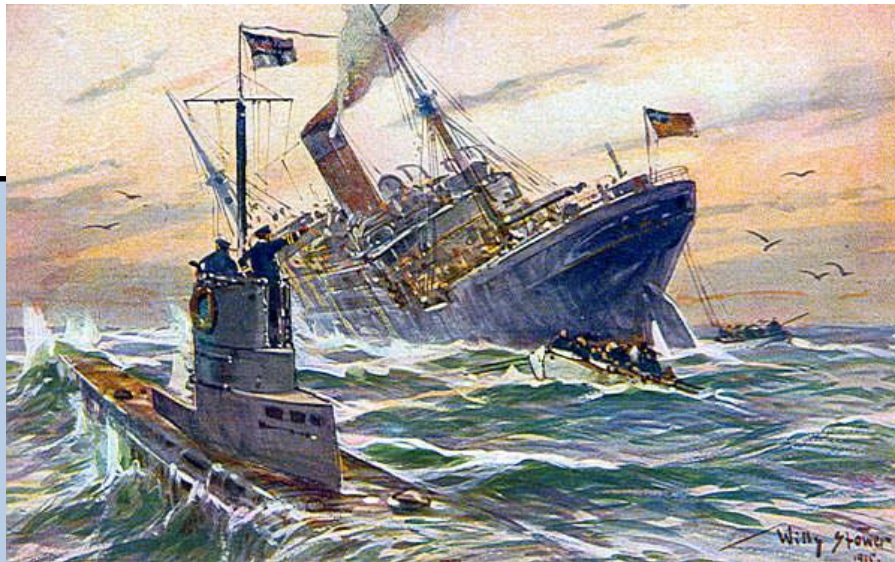
- **Sussex pledge** – to stop targeting neutral ship
- **Suspend unannounced submarine attacks**





## 1917—Germany begins...

- Germany resumed **unrestricted submarine warfare** – no ships were safe
- Unleashed its submarine fleet to sink all ships enemy or neutral





# U.S. Declares War

- On March 1917—Russian Revolution against the czar & turned to communism by October
- **Wilson said, “The world must be safe for democracy”**
  - This made it okay for U.S. to be in war –**MORAL DIPLOMACY**
- Congress declared war on **April 6, 1917**



# “Over There” by George M. Cohan

Johnnie get your gun, get your gun, get your  
gun  
Take it on the run, on the run, on the run  
Hear them calling you and me  
Every son of liberty  
Hurry right away, no delay, go today  
Make your daddy glad to have had such a  
lad  
Tell your sweetheart not to pine  
To be proud her boy's in line.

***CHORUS (repeated twice): Over there, over  
there***

***Send the word, send the word over there  
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are  
coming  
The drums are rum-tumming everywhere  
So prepare, say a prayer  
Send the word, send the word to beware  
We'll be over there, we're coming over  
And we won't come back till it's over over  
there. Over there.***

Johnnie get your gun, get your  
gun, get your gun  
Johnnie show the Hun you're a son  
of a gun  
Hoist the flag and let her fly  
Yankee Doodle do or die  
Pack your little kit, show your grit,  
do your bit  
Yankees to the ranks from the  
towns and the tanks  
Make your mother proud of you  
And the old Red White and Blue.  
**CHORUS**



# “I Didn’t Raise My Boy to be a Soldier”

Ten million soldiers to the war have  
gone,  
Who may never return again.  
Ten million mothers' hearts must break,  
For the ones who died in vain.  
Head bowed down in sorrow in her  
lonely years,  
I heard a mother murmur thro' her  
tears:

## **Chorus:**

**I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier,  
I brought him up to be my pride and joy,  
Who dares to put a musket on his  
shoulder,  
To shoot some other mother's darling  
boy?  
Let nations arbitrate their future  
troubles,  
It's time to lay the sword and gun away,  
There'd be no war today,  
If mothers all would say,  
I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier.**

What victory can cheer a mother's  
heart,  
When she looks at her blighted home?  
What victory can bring her back,  
All she cared to call her own?  
Let each mother answer in the year to  
be,  
Remember that my boy belongs to me!  
*(Chorus)*

## *(Chorus)*

What victory can cheer a mother's  
heart,  
When she looks at her blighted home?  
What victory can bring her back,  
All she cared to call her own?  
Let each mother answer in the year to  
be,  
Remember that my boy belongs to me!  
*(Chorus)*



# **Overview of “I Didn’t Raise…” Song**

**By 1915, Americans began debating the need for military and economic preparations for war. Strong opposition to “preparedness” came from isolationists, socialists, pacifists, many Protestant ministers, German Americans, and Irish Americans (who were hostile to Britain).**

**One of the hit songs of 1915, “I Didn’t Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier,” captured widespread American skepticism about joining in the European war.**

**Meanwhile, interventionists and militarists like former president Theodore Roosevelt beat the drums for preparedness. Roosevelt’s retort to the popularity of the antiwar song was that it should be accompanied by the tune “I Didn’t Raise My Girl to Be a Mother.” He suggested that the place for women who opposed war was “in China—or by preference in a harem—and not in the United States.”**

