

Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War

Each ‘pin’ on the map shows where a ship sank during the First World War (1914 – 1918). There are about 1,000 First World War wrecks off southern England!

What sort of craft do you think they were?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ship Type** | **** | **Ship Type** | **** | **Ship Type** | **** |
| Hospital ship |  | Battleship |  | U-boat |  |
| Cargo ship |  | Trawler |  | Submarine |  |
| Fishing boat |  | Mine-layer |  | Sailing ship |  |
| Airship |  | Mine-seeker |  | Yacht |  |
| Passenger liner |  | Plane |  | Mystery ship (in disguise) |  |
| Animal transporter |  | Troop carrier |  | All of these! |  |

Why do you think they sank?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sank because of** | **** | **Sank because of** | **** |
| Torpedoed by U-boat |  | Explosion on board |  |
| Gunfire from U-boat |  | Hit a mine |  |
| Bomb placed on ship by U-boat |  | Hit another boat |  |
| Hit land or rocks |  | Nobody knows! |  |
| Bad weather |  | All of these! |  |

Most of the First World War south coast wrecks were ships that transported people, animals and things: merchant ships.

After the war, King George V created the title ‘Merchant Navy’ to honour the vital role that such ships played during the war. A new medal was introduced called the Mercantile Marine Medal.

A First World War merchant ship

It had the head of King George V on the front and on the back: 

King George V

Steam ship

German U-boat coming out of the waves

Sailing ship



**Mercantile Marine Medal**

The colours of the medal’s ribbon represents the navigation lights on a ship:

Green (starboard/right)

Red (port/left)

White (steaming light on top of mast).

Design your own medal and ribbon!

|  |  |
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