

WWI Mercantile Marine Medals

Each 'pin' on the map shows where a ship sank during the First World War (1914-1918). There are about 1000 First World War wrecks off southern England!



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!	

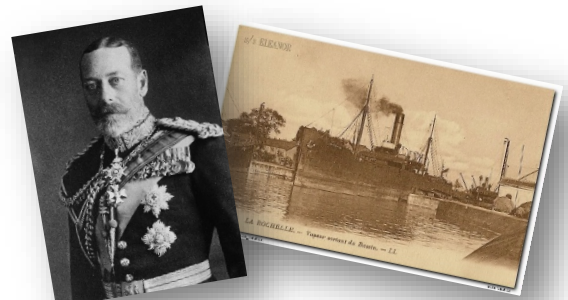
What sort of craft do you think they were?

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!	

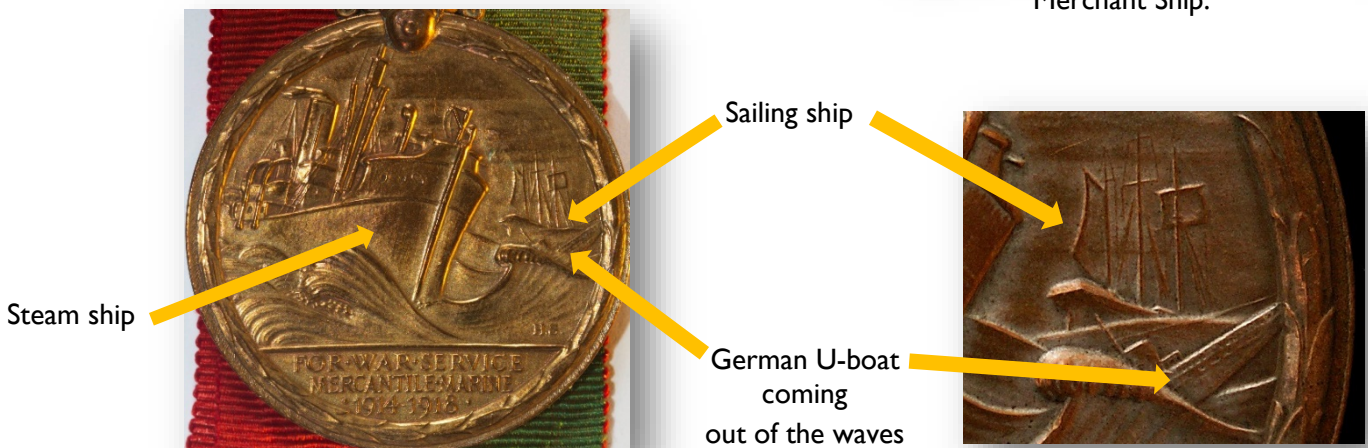
Most of the First World War south coast wrecks were ships that transported people, animals and things: merchant ships.

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.

It had the head of King George V on the front, and on the back an image of a ships.



King George V and a First World War Merchant Ship.

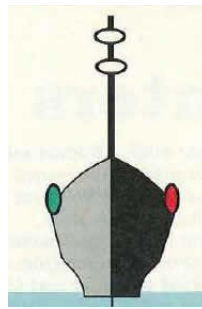


The colours of the medal's ribbon represents the navigation lights on a ship:

Green (starboard/right)

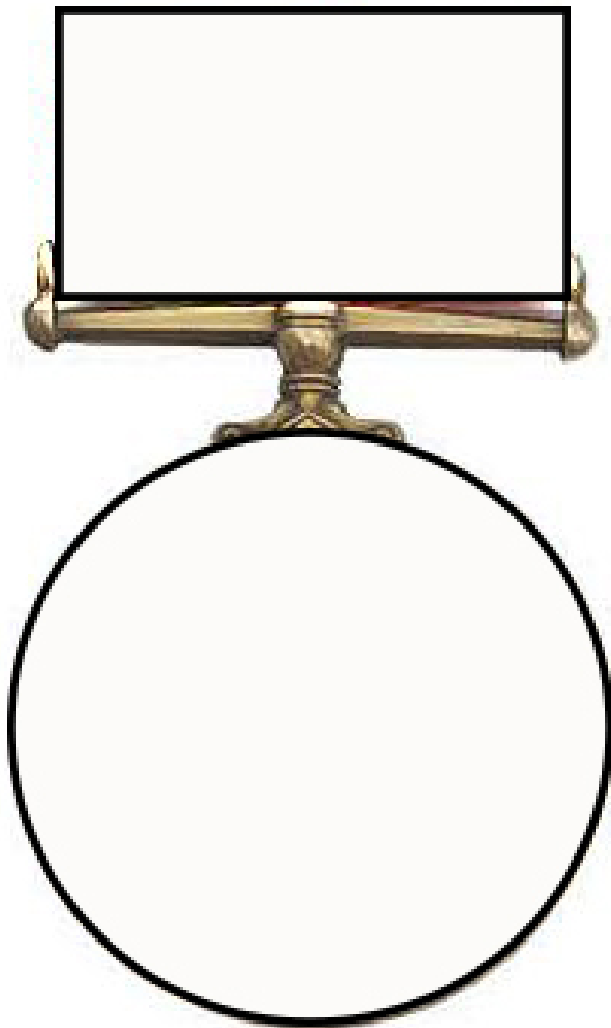
Red (port/left)

White (steaming light on top of mast).



Design your own medal and ribbon!

Front



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