

as well as those destroyed by hostile action. The comparatively small losses of the German navy, particularly in large vessels, are due to the fact that the greater part of her fleet remained in port during the war and as she had no mercantile marine at sea the service of scouting vessels and patrol boats to protect her shipping was unnecessary.

Description of vessel.	Great Britain.	France.	Italy.	Japan.	United States.
Battleships.....	13	4	3	1	-
Battle cruisers.....	3	-	-	-	-
Cruisers.....	25	5	2	4	1
Monitors.....	6	-	1	-	-
Destroyers.....	64	14	10	3	2
Torpedo boats.....	10	8	5	1	-
Submarines.....	50	14	8	-	1
Small craft.....	27	9	-	-	-
Total tonnage.....	550,000	110,000	76,000	50,000	17,000

Total for the Allies—803,000 tons.

Enemy losses were as follows:

Description of Vessel.	Germany.	Austria-Hungary.
Battleships.....	1	3
Battle cruisers.....	1	-
Cruisers.....	24	2
Monitors.....	-	3
Destroyers.....	72	5
Torpedo boats.....	51	4
Submarines.....	205	8
Total tonnage.....	350,000	65,000

Total for the Central Powers—415,000 tons.

The total loss of the British merchant tonnage was stated by the Admiralty to amount to 15,053,386 gross tons, valued at \$3,000,000,-000. According to this official statement 2,475 British ships were sunk with their crews and 3,147 sunk and their crews set adrift, and 670 fishing boats were destroyed. The total number of lives lost by the warfare waged against the British merchant marine exceeded 15,000.

Early in the year 1918 the demand that American troops should be rapidly transported to France became so urgent that a large number of British fast vessels were detailed for this service. Between May 1 and November 1 the number of troops transported across the Atlantic amounted to 1,673,000, of whom the greater part were embarked in British vessels and in many cases escorted by British cruisers and destroyers.

The action of the British fleet was unquestionably one of the most decisive factors in the war, as the blockade had brought the Central Powers to the verge of famine and deprived them of the most essential supplies for a continuation of hostilities.