

WW1: Was the U-boat a death trap?

Presented by Dr Matthew Seligmann

Step 4: Outgunned and outwitted: video transcript

As the two ships came within 300m of each other the steamer opened a heavy, accurate rifle fire from along the railing, immediately joined by large-calibre guns, hidden fore and aft.

The U41 immediately returned three rounds from the forward gun, all hits to the hull. Throughout the action, the steamer continued to fly the American flag.