

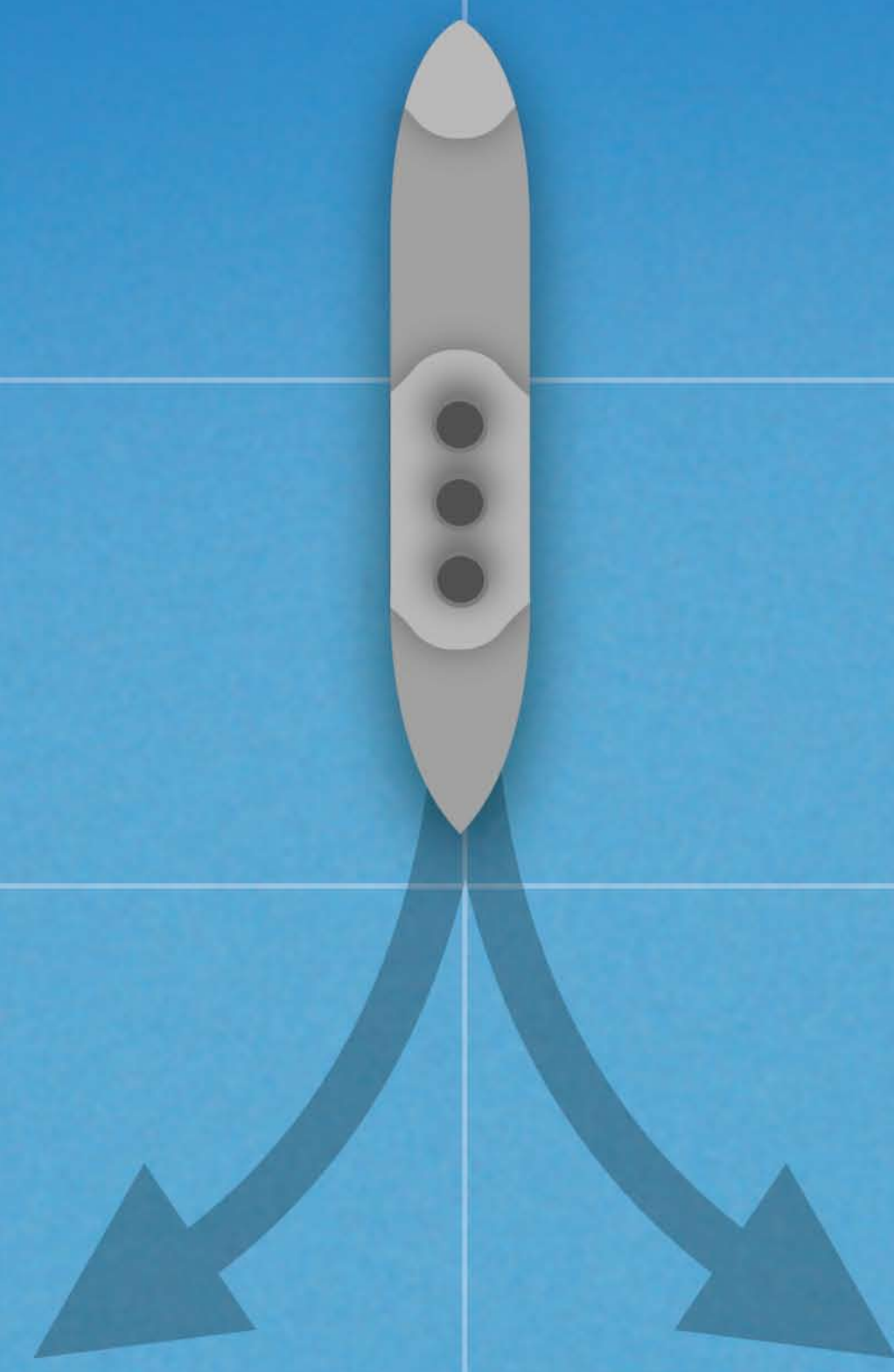
Razzle Dazzle

The Art and Science of Ship Camouflage During World War I

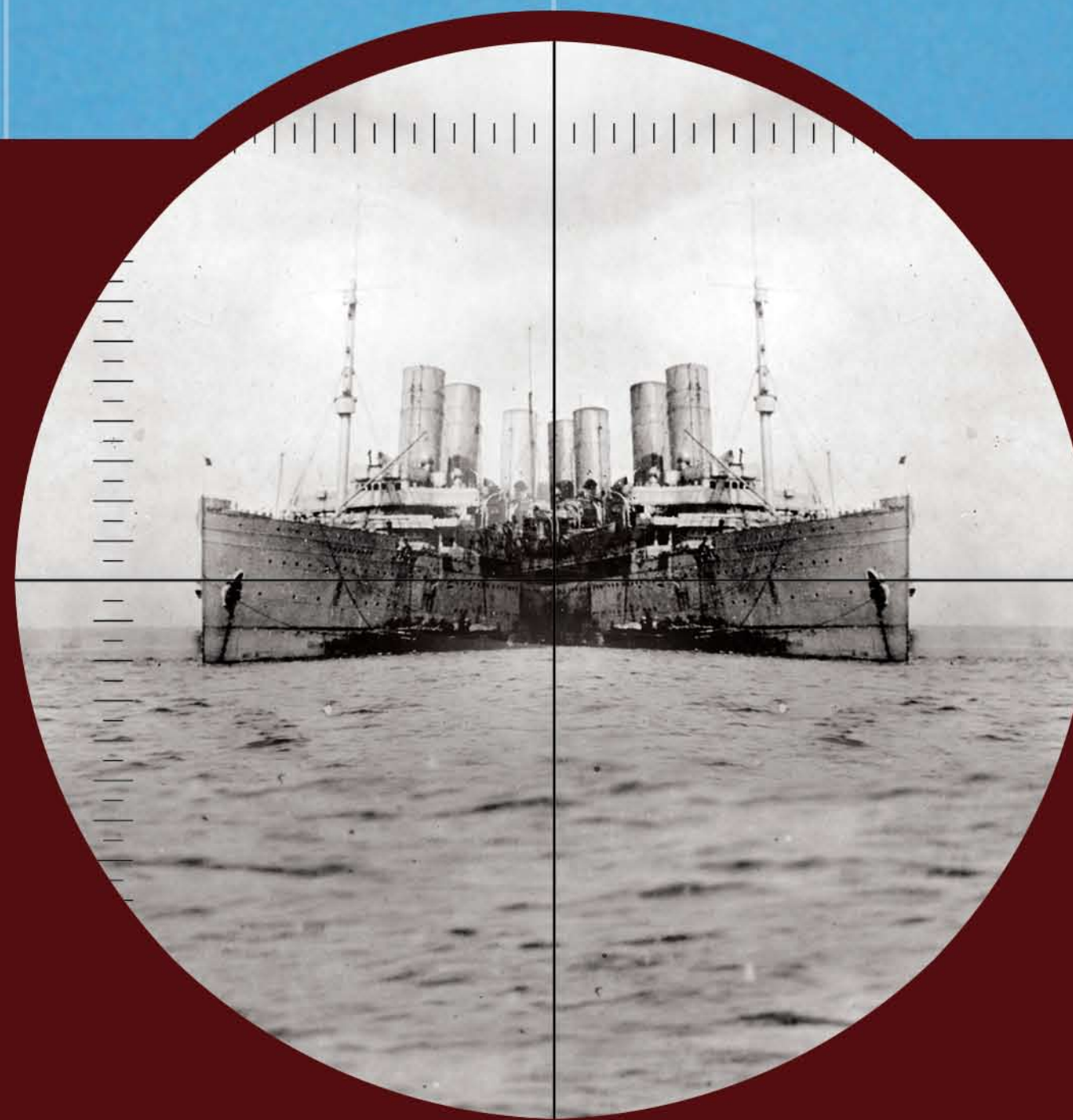
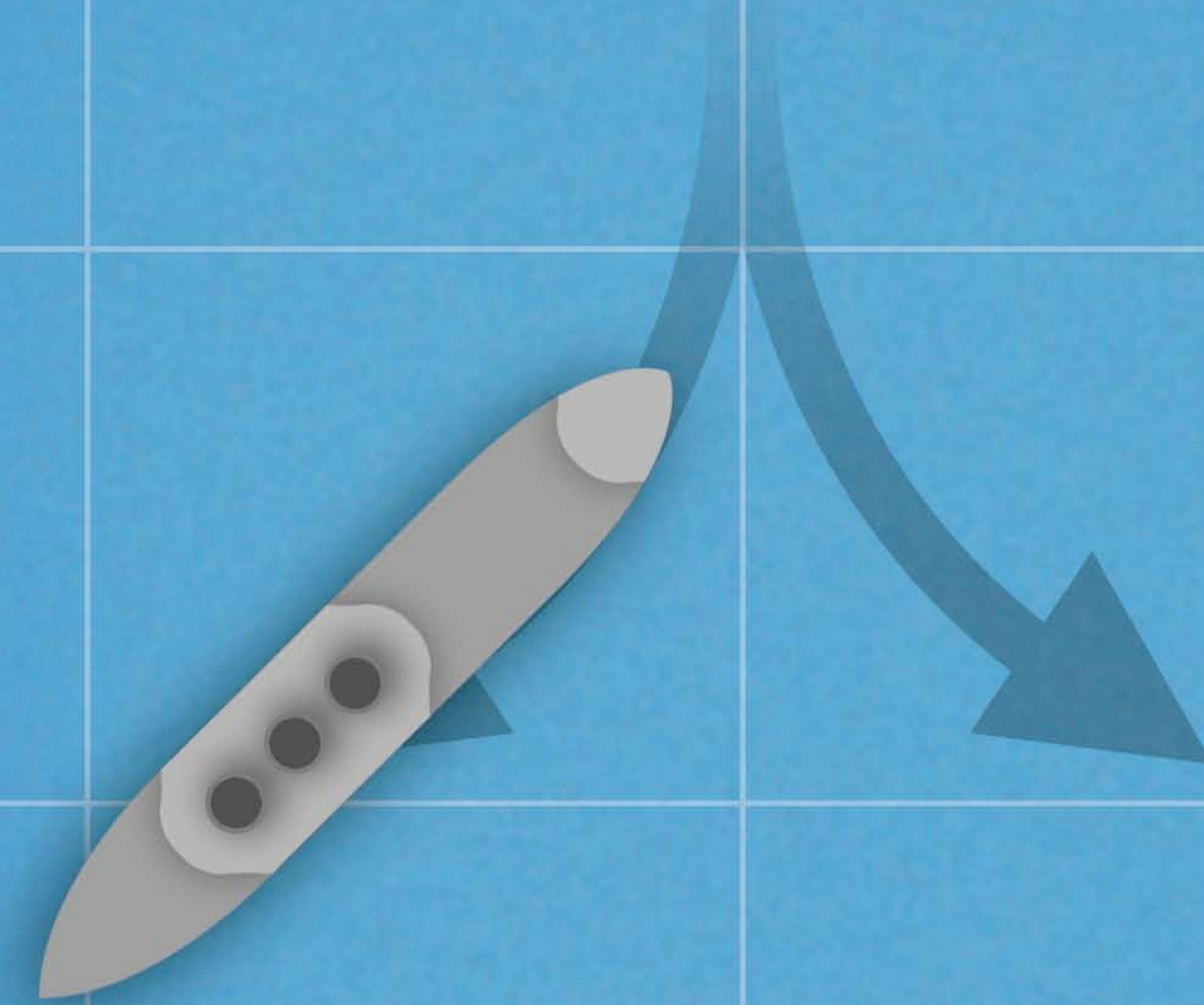


■ An exhibition created by the National Museum of the United States Navy and the Great Lakes Naval Museum in commemoration of the Centennial of World War I, 1914-1918.

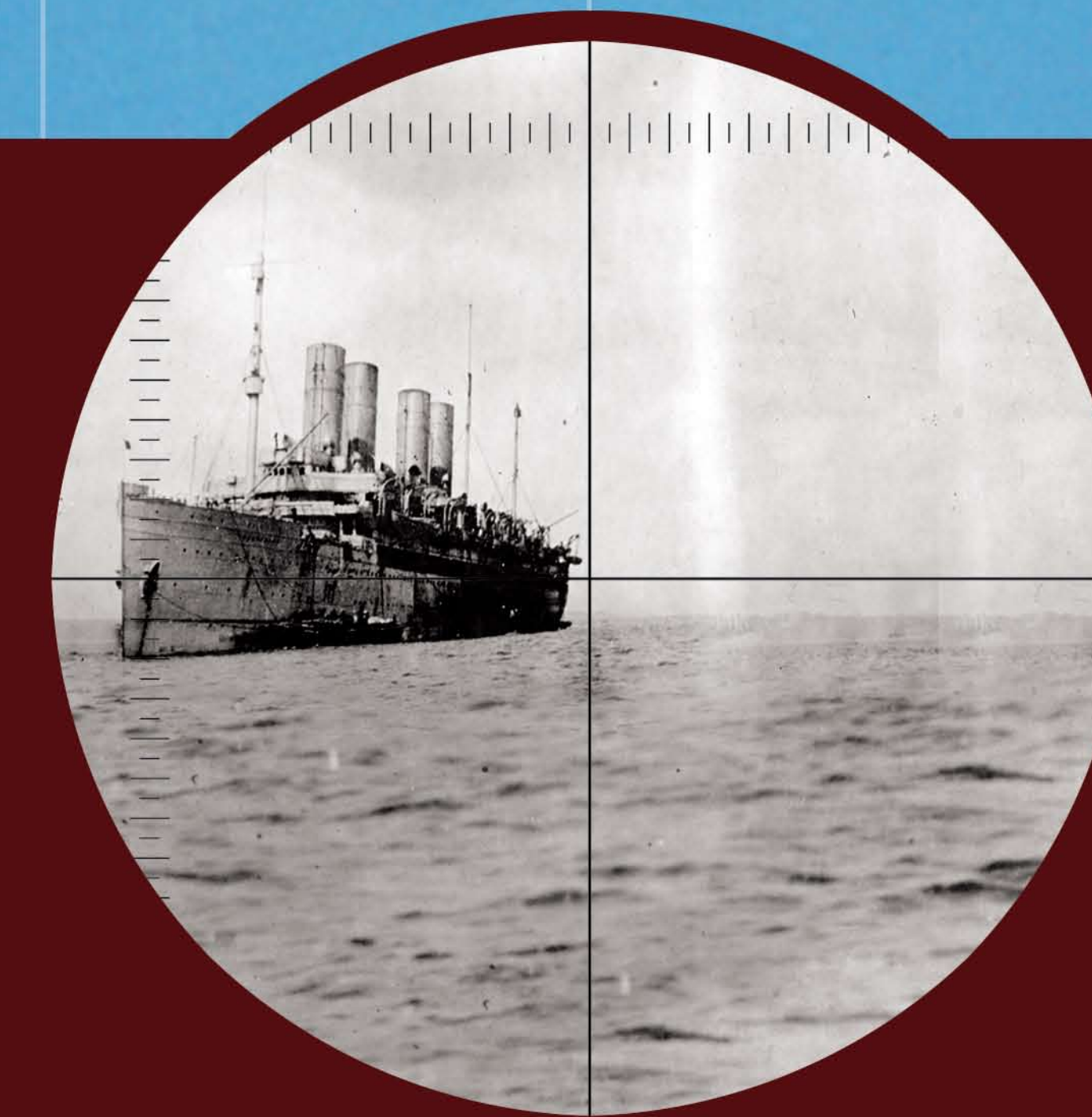
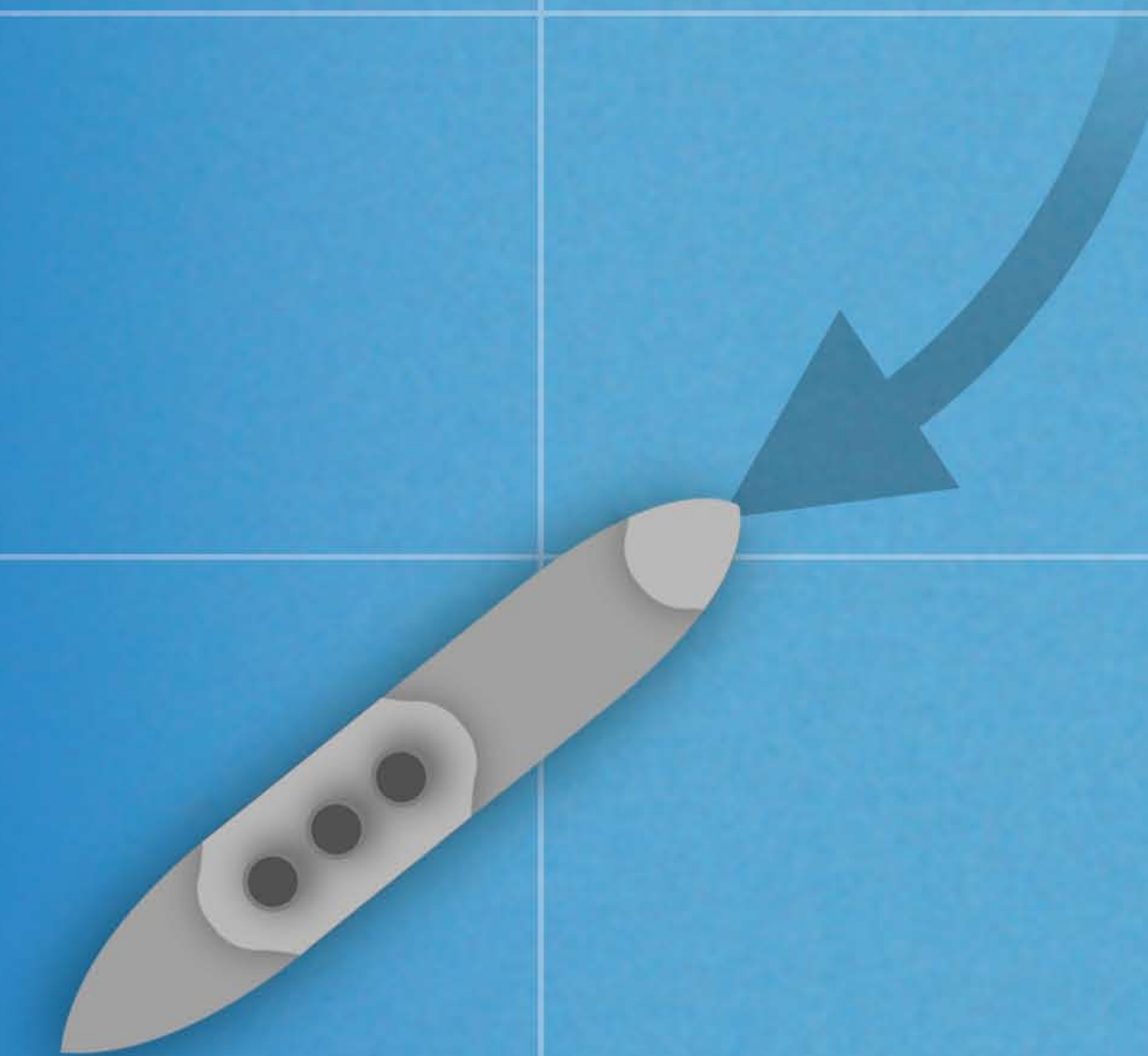
A Near Run Thing



As an unsuspecting Allied transport appears on the horizon, the U-boat commander observes it through the periscope, mentally calculating the ship's distance, course and speed. The German works quickly because he must get to firing position and submerge there before the ship comes near enough to spot the submarine.



Struggling to identify the shape of the ship's bow among the contrasting colors and pressed for time, the German commander predicts the ship's path incorrectly and so mistakenly orders the wrong intercept course. The U-boat steams full speed on the surface to reach the intended position in time.



The U-boat submerges safely in the intended firing position before it can be spotted by the approaching ship and its escorts. As the ship closes the distance, the German commander finally sees through the deceptive camouflage, but it's too late! The much faster merchant ship steams by safely beyond torpedo range.