



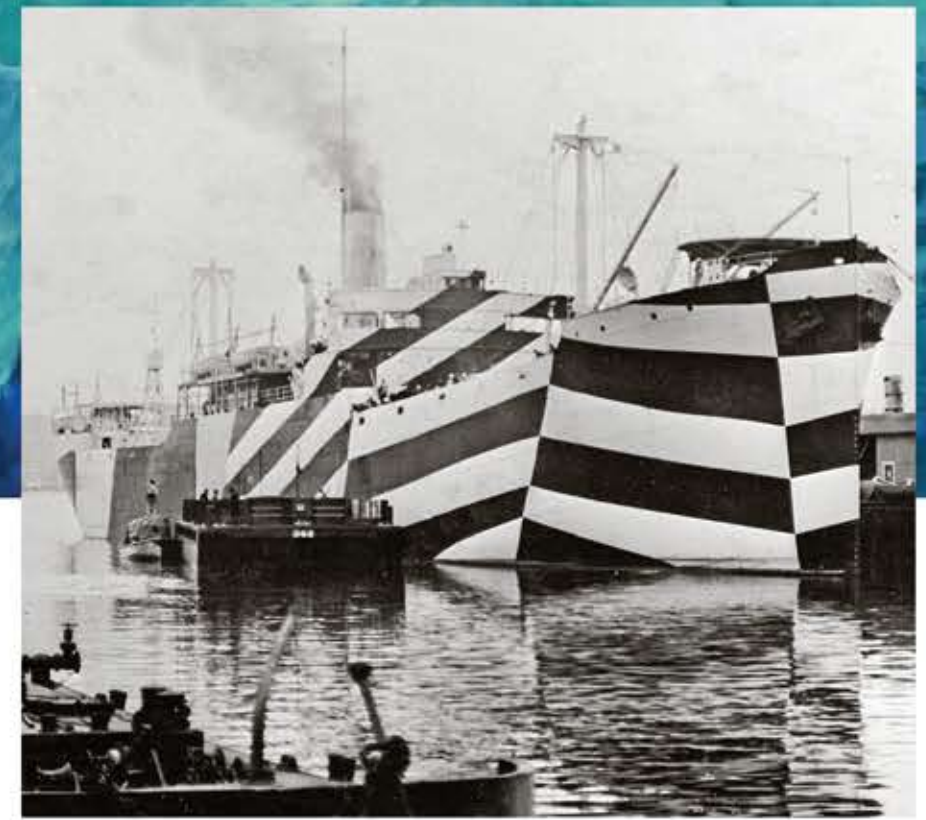
DAZZLING THE ENEMY

WELL BEFORE THE ADVENT OF RADAR, THE US NAVY AND ROYAL NAVY REALIZED THAT THE CLEVER USE OF CAMOUFLAGE COULD AID IN PREVENTING GERMANS FROM TARGETING ALLIED SHIPS

BY ROD ELMSDORF

CAMOUFLAGE DRAWINGS COURTESY NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

The Great War brought with it many advances in combat at sea. As aircraft, zeppelins, and advanced gunnery systems came into play, the US Navy and Royal Navy realized that surface ships were becoming much more vulnerable. Accordingly, the Navy drew upon the many great artists that they had available to create camouflage schemes would make surface ships more “invisible”



USS West Mahomet painted in a very effective scheme during 1918 that made it very difficult to tell which way the ship was traveling.

US Naval Convoy, World War I is an oil on canvas painting by Henry Reuter Dahl. It depicts dazzle-painted USS Allen (DD-66) in the foreground escorting troopships SS France and USS Mount Vernon (ID-4508) across the Atlantic.