Britain had declared war on Germany a year previously...

The Quay at Derry was well known in the past for its drydock and shipbuilding especially of Clipper ships...

...also as a key cross Atlantic port which the USA made use of even before they entered the War.

In June 1940 the Royal Navy commissions a new 2,300 foot long Jetty at Lisahally.

The Jetty made Derry a hive of activity with the stationing of 48,000 troops from the USA and other nations by 1943.

The city and its port provided vital support for the Atlantic shipping convoys.

Derry’s position was held as key by Britain... it was the Allies’ most westerly port in Europe.

War rages as the Nazi war machine rolls out over Europe in total conquest by invading neighbouring Poland, and France: Allies of Great Britain.
The position of the port proved to be very strategic indeed. During the war it was used as a base of operations for ships that took part in the...

Battle of the Atlantic, the longest running campaign of the Second World War.

It was vital for the repair and refueling of allied vessels. Londonderry held the key to victory in the Atlantic.

Towards the end of the war Derry’s port was used as one of the bases in Operation Deadlight, which planned to destroy the German U boats.

7th May 1945.

U-boats at sea to surface, fly a black flag or pennant, report to the nearest Allied Radio-telegraphy station, and proceed on the surface to such ports as directed.

The surrendered U-Boats were ordered by the Kriegsmarine to nearby Allied bases.

The War is over...

...We lost.
8 German U-Boats surrendered at Lisahally in Londonderry, the first of them was U-802.

This is it...

In the name of the King and the Allied powers...

...we accept your surrender, Helmut Schmoeckel.

Operation Deadlight used Lisahally as a hub for U-boat decommissioning up until February 1946.
The city was one of the UK’s most important ports during the War...

...but today the city’s port is a major tourist and visitor attraction.

Many of the U-boats were sent on to other bases in Scotland...

The men were taken prisoner but treated well.

Woah!

However many of the U-boats were scuttled off the north coast of Ireland.

During the Second World War Derry’s port was home to many different nationalities.

Today, once again, our quay side is a vibrant place welcoming visiting vessels from all over the world.