

## Without a Trace

Life on the open seas can be very risky. You never know what may lie ahead when you set sail. A calm sea can turn dark and stormy without much warning. Occasionally, ships are found abandoned with no sign of life. Others sink after catastrophic accidents and debris from these ships later floats to the surface. Still others have vanished without a trace. With these ships, not even a plank of wood or a lifejacket is ever found.

The British ship *Waratah* weighed 16,800 tons. It was last spotted on July 27, 1909. Some said the ship seemed top-heavy, when trying to explain her disappearance. This might have caused her to turn over and sink in heavy seas. There were 211 people on board, none of whom were ever found.

The mystery of the missing *Cyclops* is also disturbing. This American ship, weighing 19,000 tons, was last heard from in March 1918, on her way from the West Indies to the port of Baltimore, Maryland. Our Navy has never found a sign of the missing ship or the 309 passengers she had on board, and the file on this missing ship is still open.

1. To what does the title “Without a Trace” refer?
2. What might have caused the *Waratah* to sink?