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## Glimpses of Le Havre History

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► **To cite this version:**

John Barzman. Glimpses of Le Havre History. Licence. Bienvenue à Sciences Po Le Havre - Glimpses of Le Havre history, Sciences Po Paris, campus du Havre, France. 2015, pp.38. hal-04244026

**HAL Id: hal-04244026**

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Submitted on 16 Oct 2023

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# **“Glimpses of Le Havre History”**

**A slide lecture by John Barzman  
Professor of History, University of Le Havre**

**Welcome to the class of 2015**

**Sciences Po Campus le Havre  
August 24, 2015**

## **Introduction**

### **Urban history**

**How world trends combine in a particular city  
or  
How densely populated built-up areas are managed**

**A theme for Le Havre: state logic and autonomy**

**Tool of the continental entity (French state)  
and  
Emerging will of its inhabitants**

# The strategic importance of the mouth of the Seine for the continental entity

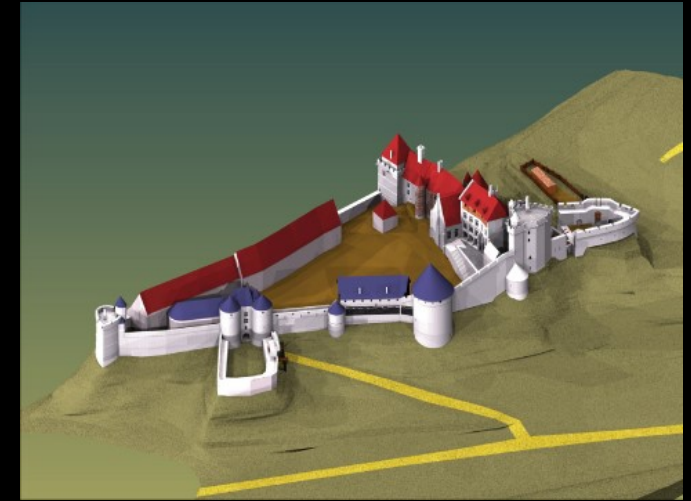


# I. Le Havre before Le Havre

## Roman and medieval times



# Vikings, Castle of Tancarville Abbey of Montivilliers, Chef de Caux



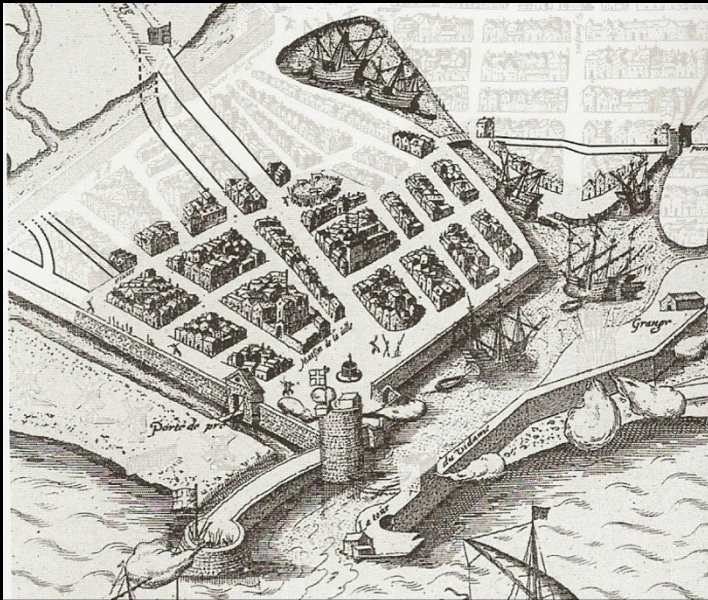
## Harfleur 1415

### Henry V, King of England

### William Shakespeare, The Chronicle History of Henry the Fifth



## II. Foundation by royal initiative and failed attempts at autonomous development



Restitution du plan du Havre de Grâce en 1520.  
(Plan de Hiéronymus Cook, vers 1550 -  
Extrait de « Le Havre, un port, des villes neuves »  
de Claire Etienne-Steiner)





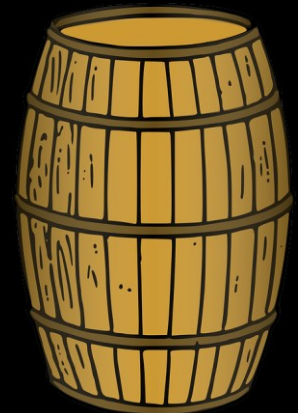
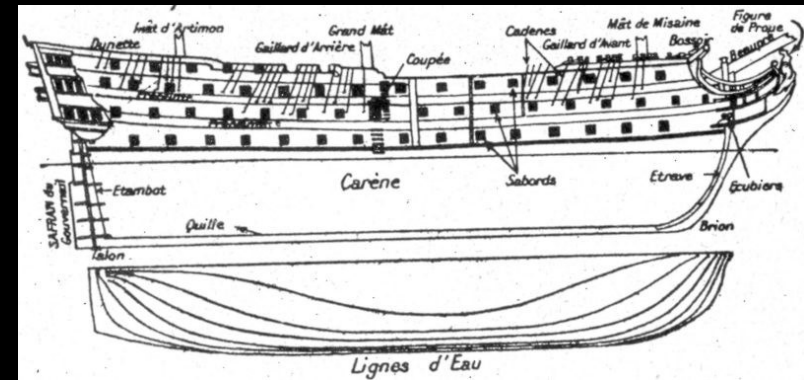
# Church of Our Lady of Le Havre



Cathédrale Notre-Dame du Havre

**Semi-autonomous economic development : shipbuilding, European trade, fishing, oceanic trade**

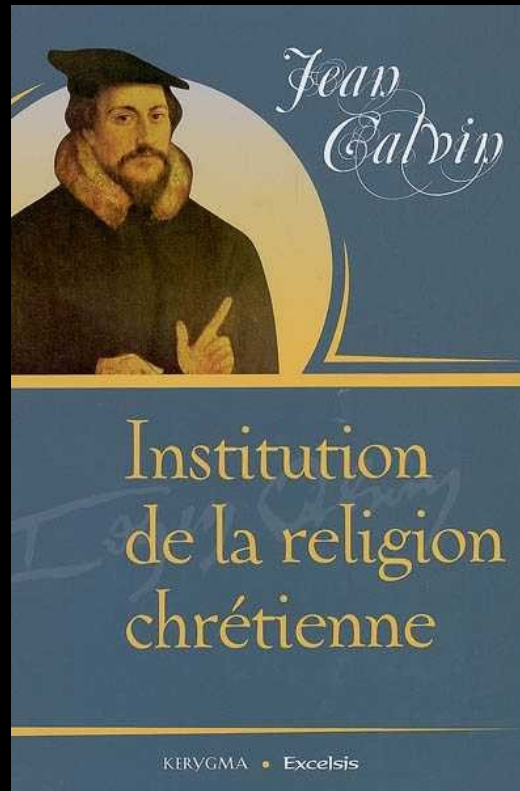
**Model of “Hanseatic city states”**



## Linked to trade, industry : rise of Protestantism



Amiral Gaspard de Coligny



Jean Calvin

Manoir de Bévilliers

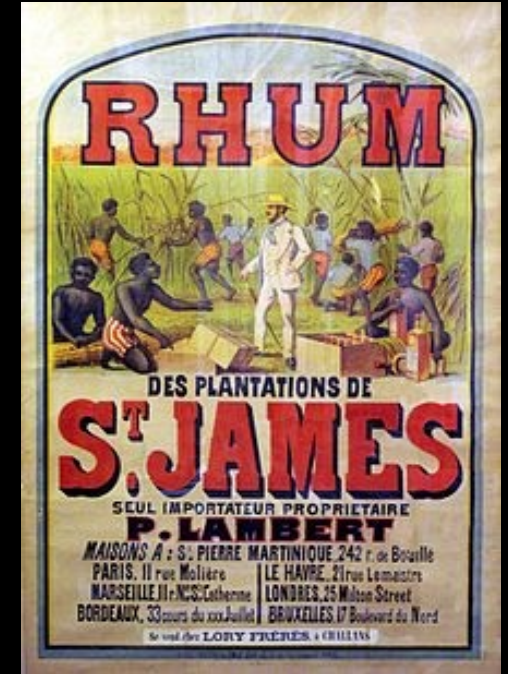


### III. Development of trade under royal protection





“



## Maison de l'armateur

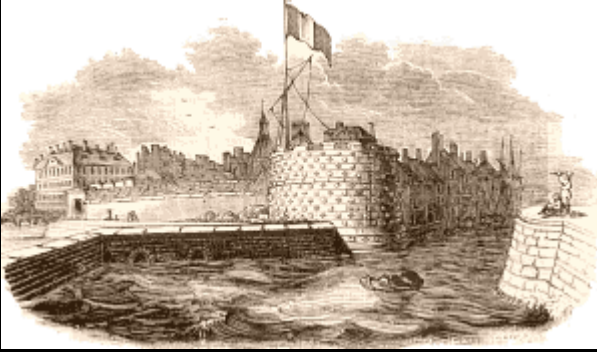


Jacques-François Begouën-Demeaux



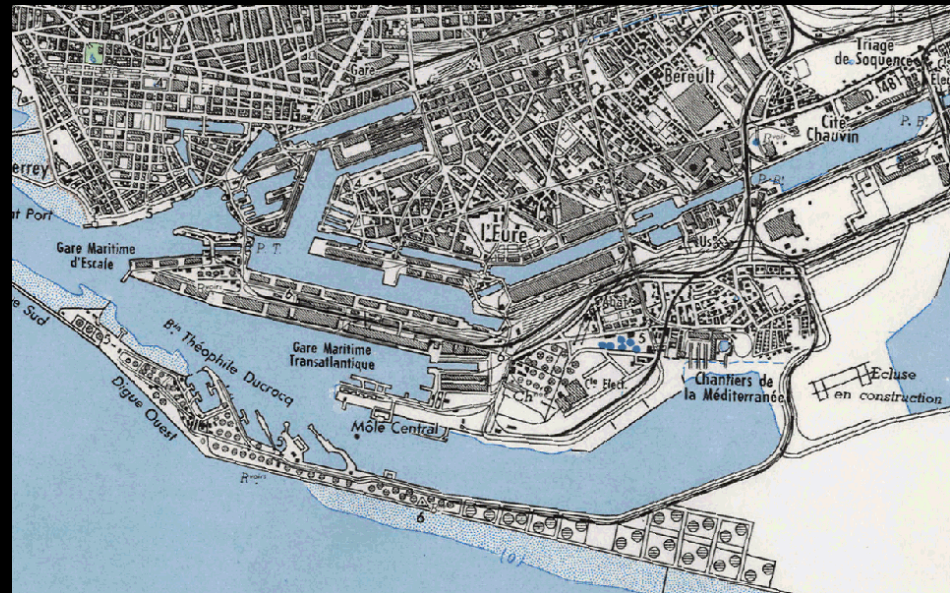
Martin Foache

## IV. Expansion in the first and second industrial revolutions



Breaking out of the old walls

Building new basins and docks



# The Compagnie des Docks et Entrepôts du Havre

The first Saint-Katharine-style enclosed dock in France





## **New basins, new warehouses, new railroads, new cranes**



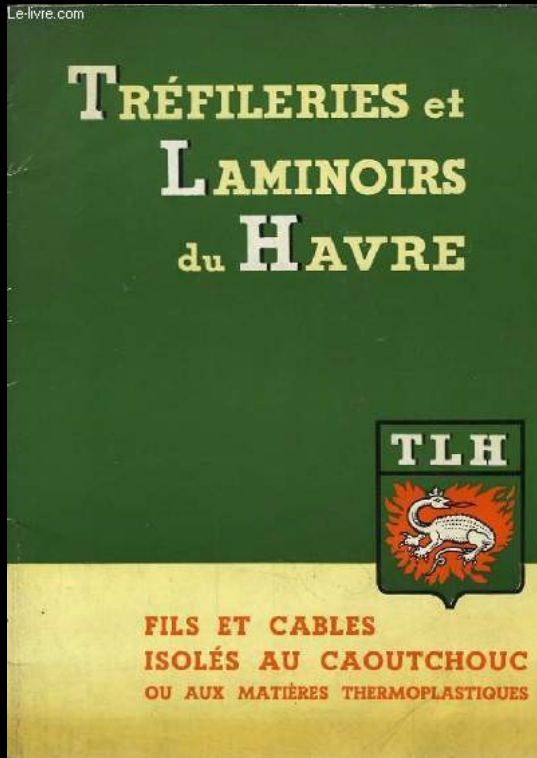


**State-initiated  
or financed  
or controlled  
enterprises**



**Another strategic state initiative in the 1970s: the creation of the port of Antifer**

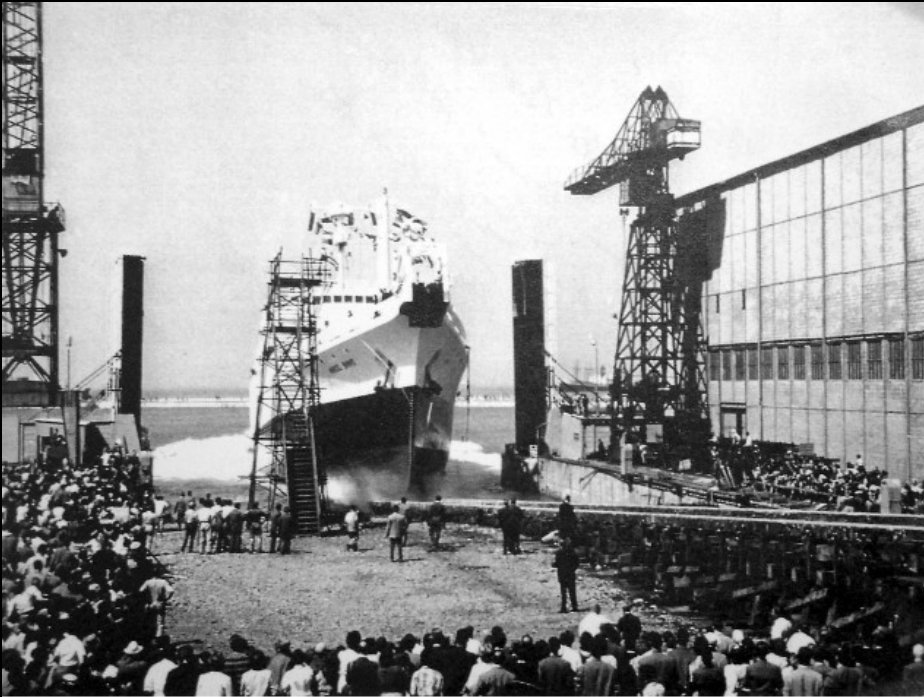




## Alongside the trading houses a new generation of industries:

- Mechanical
- Chemical
- Wood
- Food





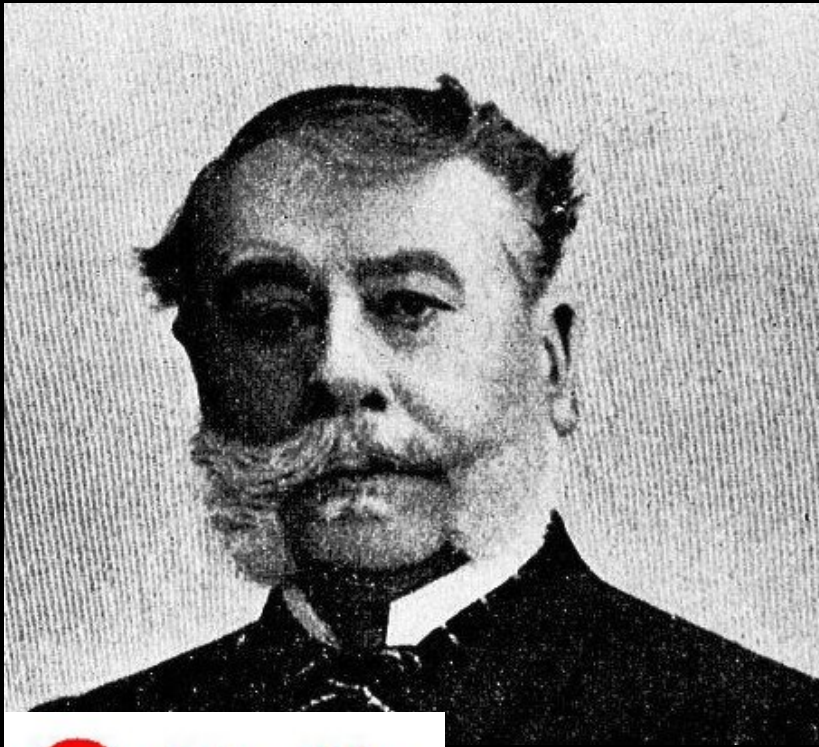
**Shipbuilding  
steel hulls  
Diesel engines  
Instruments  
cables**



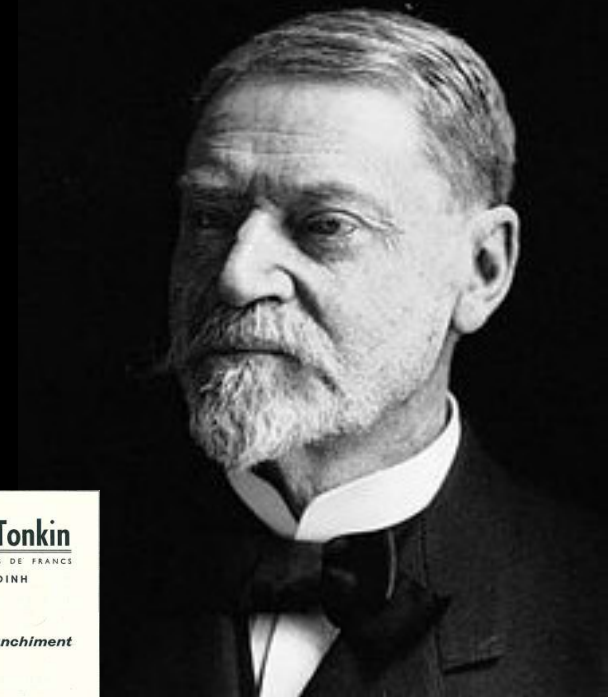
## Two emblematic industrial and commercial leaders

Jules Charles-Roux

Director of the Compagnie Générale transatlantique



 Cie Gle  
TRANSATLANTIQUE



Jules Siegfried, cotton tycoon



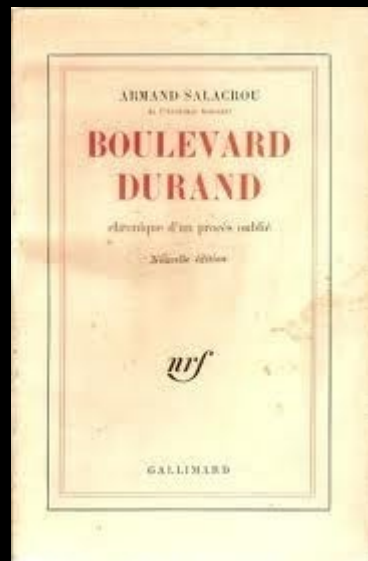
## Working Class

## Trade unions

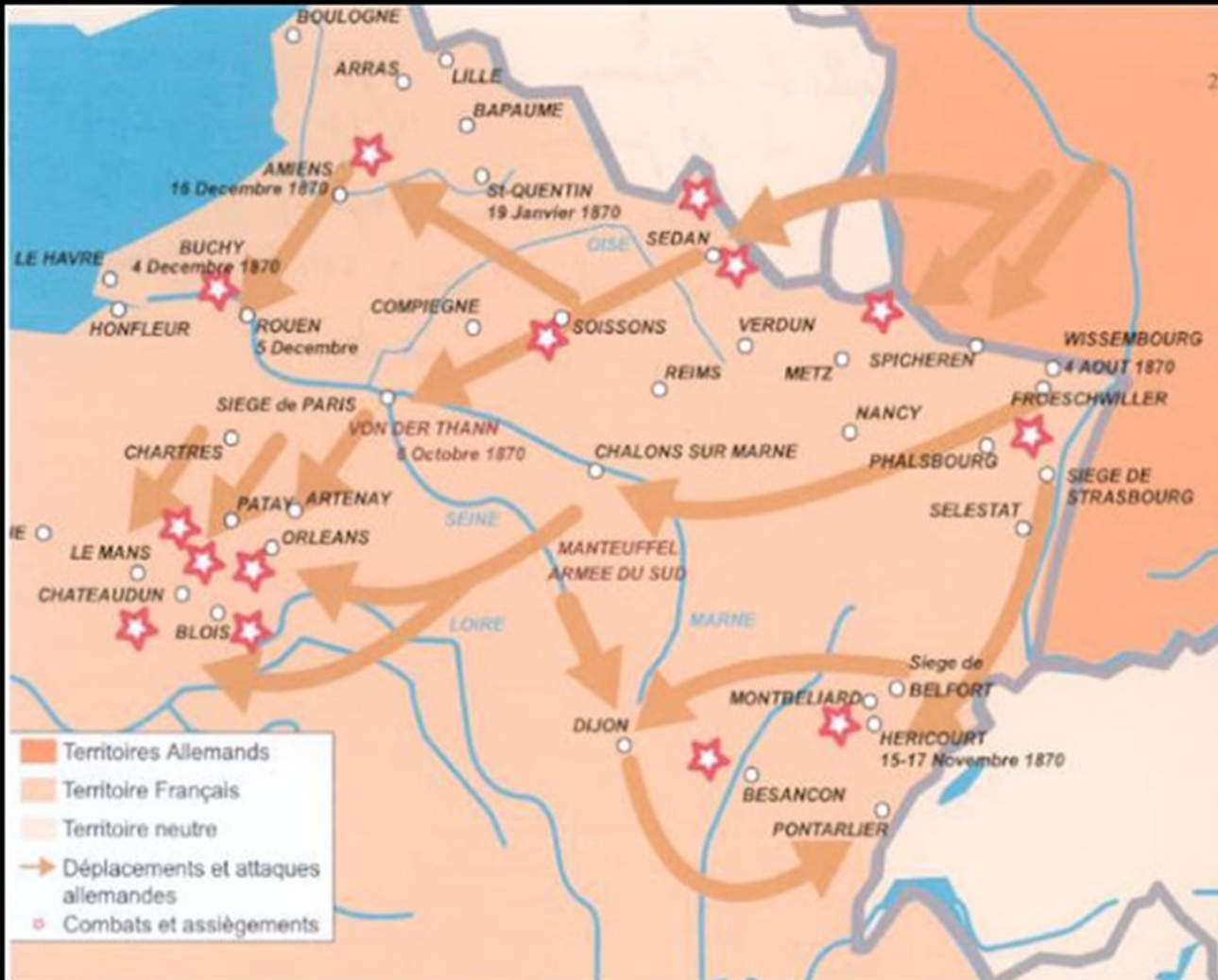
## A local hero Jules Durand



## The memory of Jules Durand



## V. Le Havre in three wars



Franco-Prussian  
War  
1870-71







Hotel Dufayel served as the seat of the Belgian Government



**"ATHOS". — TORPILLÉ EN**

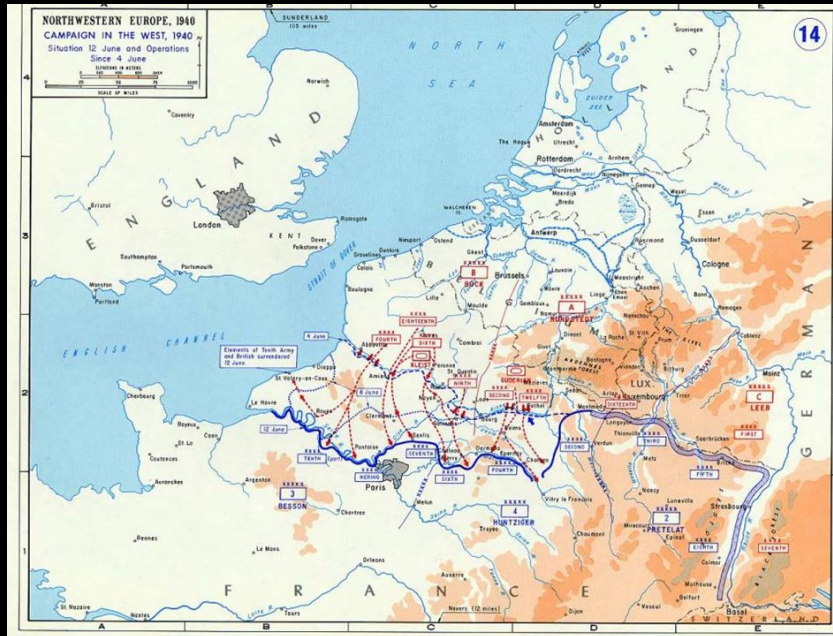
Multiples distinctions et témoignages officiels de satisfaction de la Marine à l'Etat-Major et à l'équipage du navire. Très nombreux disparus dont : le commandant, 2 officiers de pont, le commissaire, 1 officier de la machine, 6 personnes de l'équipage.

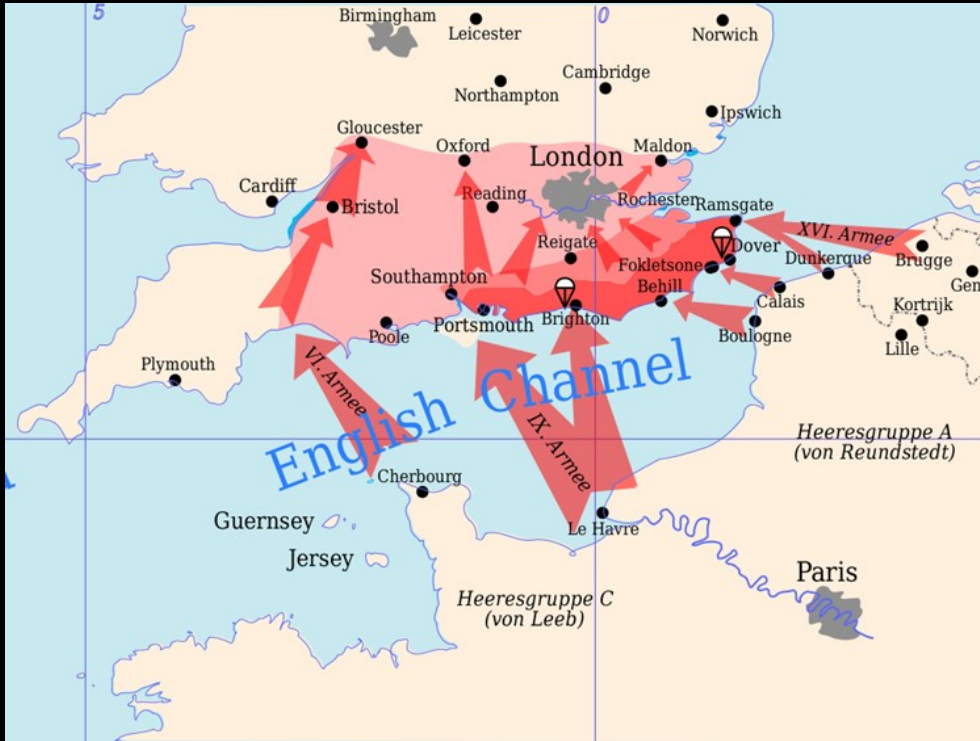
**MÉDITERRANÉE. LE 17 FÉVRIER 1917**

*Témoignage officiel de satisfaction de la Marine :* Un témoignage officiel de satisfaction est accordé au paquebot *Athos* pour la belle conduite et courageuse tenue de l'esprit de dévouement dont son équipage a fait preuve lors du torpillage de son bâtiment le 17 février 1917.

**Athos ship carried 950 Chinese coolies who boarded at Hong Kong**

# Le Havre 11 June 1940 : Dunkirk avoided Niobé sunk during exodus



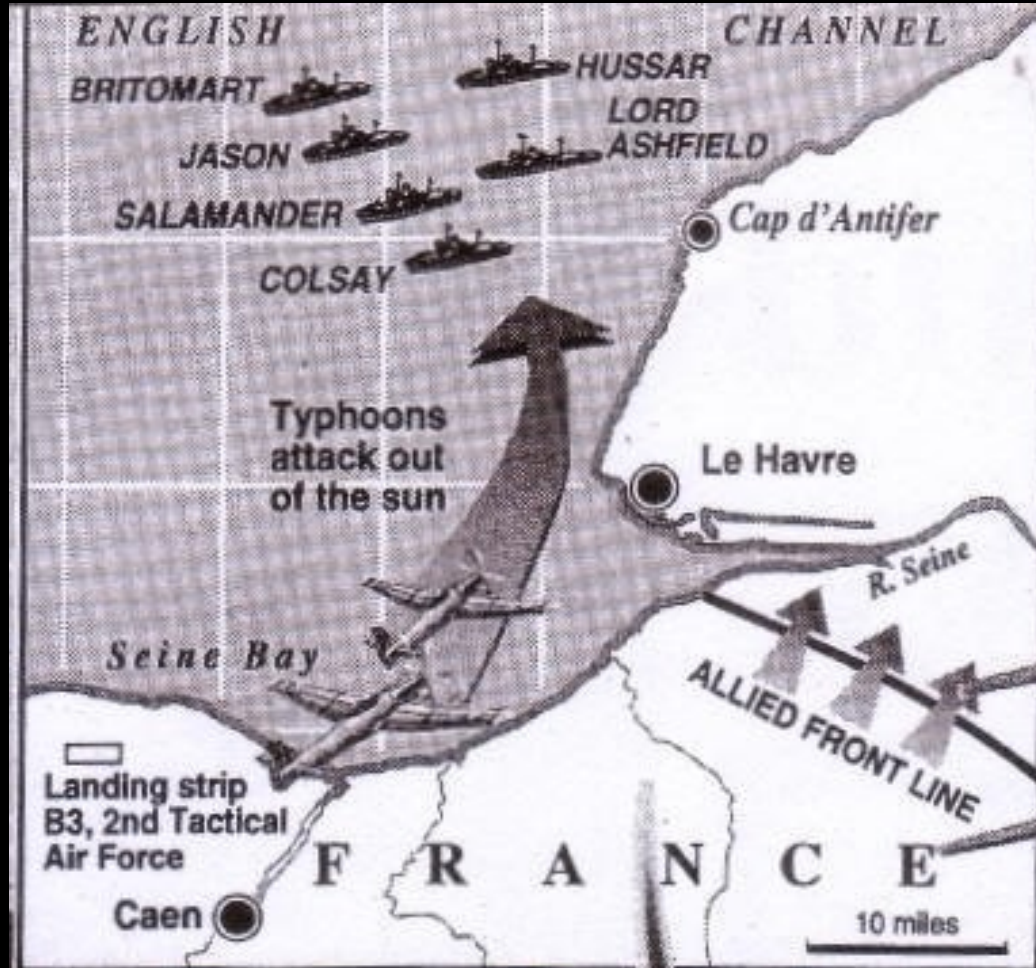


## Operation Seelöwe

## Fortress of Atlantic Wall



## Fortification of Le Havre forced Allies to land on Normandy beaches June 6, 1944





Léon Meyer  
elected democratically  
1919 to 1941,  
revoked by Vichy

“



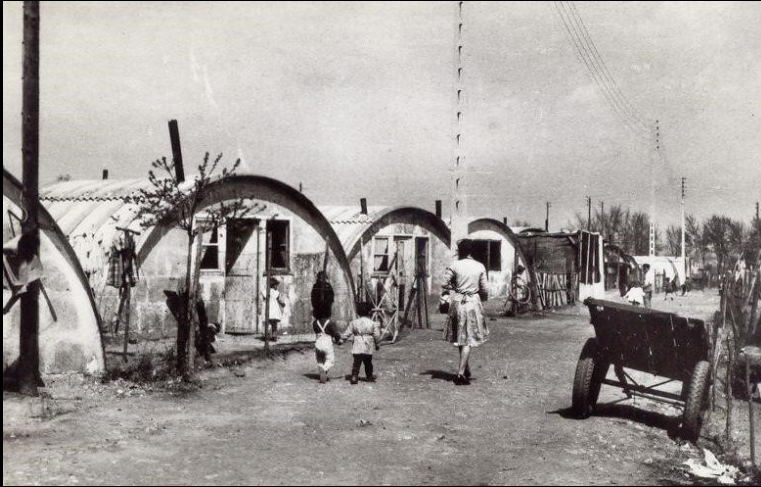
Pierre Courant  
appointed by Vichy

# VI. Bombing, reconstruction and after





## Housing the lower classes; not a priority for state



# “Stalingrad-sur-Seine?”



After 1995: two priorities of Rufenacht-Philippe government  
1) port function 2) urban renewal

## Port 2000 France's number one container port



**Attempted gentrification:  
attract upper middle-class inhabitants**

**Docks Vauban: maritime cultural space  
or commercial mall**



## attempted gentrification



## Quartier Saint-Nicolas de l'Eure



## The alternative: a « Barcelona model »?

### Mix and match

### Preservation of sites of memory



Courtesy of the ICUB (Barcelona Institute of Culture)

Fabra i Coats factory

Today  
Cultural and educational  
exhibits

# **2017 Celebration**

**Modernity**

**Resilience**

**Maritime cultural metropole**