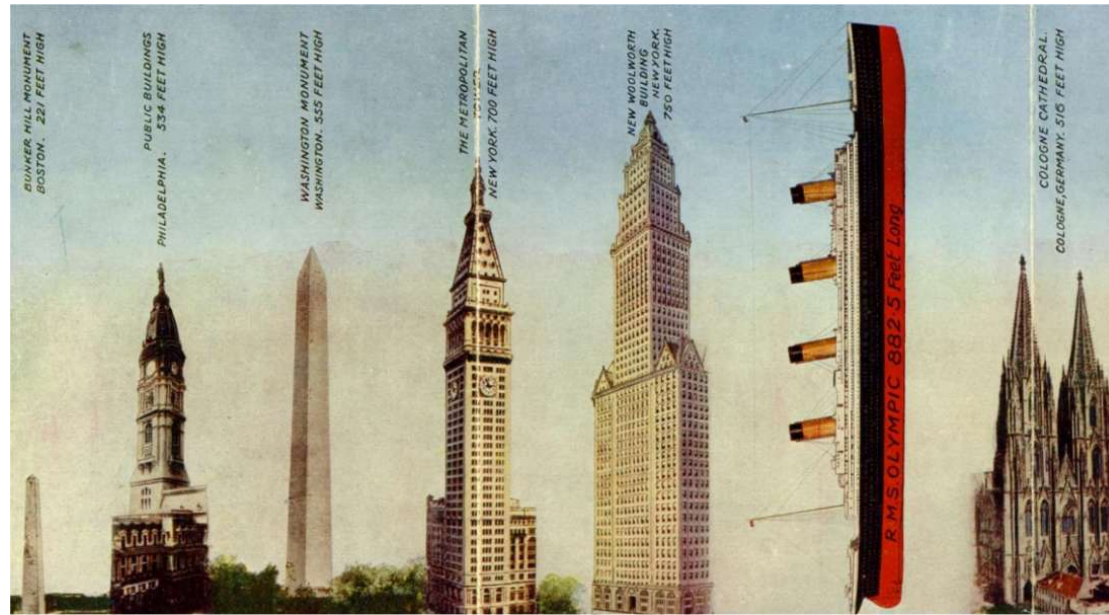


RMS Olympic



In 1930, British Very Long Transport Vessels finally retired the RMS Olympic after two dozen years of yeoman work on the high seas. At a formal ceremony in London, the Lord High Commandant presented her with a gold watch as the B.V.L.T.V. band played a spirited rendition of “The Olympic March.” Most of the attendees, including the ship, figured she’d be moved to the company’s private Very Long Lake, where she’d take the occasional guest for a comfy two-mile cruise, but otherwise enjoy a well-earned life of quiet moorage. So imagine their surprise when President Filpott had a building foundation dug in the Great Skyline Trench in New York City, then drove the ship himself over to America and had it secured to the ground halfway between the Woolworth Building and the Cologne Cathedral! But she was anchored sideways – her bow pointed straight up! All of her fabulous accommodations fell higgledy-piggledy to the stern. It made for some pretty queasy feelings during high winds, but she put up with it because she was proud to be the tallest structure in the whole Trench. Then, just a year later, that upstart Empire State Building came along, surpassing her height by more than five hundred feet! At first it irked her. But Empire State was so nice that they eventually became best of friends. She tried to welcome World Trade Center Towers when they appeared some forty years later. However, from the start, the towers were snooty, rude and unpleasant, and she soon found herself plotting to do them harm. It took another thirty years but, finally, she was able to bring them both to their urban renewal knees. The moral? Um, don’t mess with a boat out of water, I guess.