The 1942 Laconia Order, The Murder of Shipwrecked Survivors and the Allied Pursuit of Justice 1945-46

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Abstract
This article examines the post-war trials of three German naval officers in connection with the Laconia order of 1942. It sets their behaviour, and the order, in the context of maritime custom and the practices of the German submarine arm between 1939 and 1945. It establishes linkages between the three trials and highlights the British Admiralty's faltering pursuit of the German submarine arm over the supposed practice of murdering shipwreck survivors from Allied vessels.

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This article examines the post-war trials of three German naval officers in connection with the Laconia order of 1942. It sets their behaviour, and the order, in the context of maritime custom and the practices of the 1989 revolutions in east-central Europe: a comparative analysis. Rodda, Ruth (University of Plymouth, 2000). There is a substantial amount of existing literature that focuses on the revolutionary events of 1989 in East-By 1942 the Laconia had been converted into a troopship, and at the time of the incident, she was sailing from Cape Town, South Africa to Freetown in Sierra Leone. Captain Rudolph Sharp, had previously been in charge of the RMS Lancastria, which had been sunk by Germans in French waters while evacuating British and French nationals two weeks after Dunkirk. Just before midnight on September 12, 1942, U-156 was stationed off the coast of West Africa, between Liberia and Ascension Island. U-156 picked up nearly 200 survivors and had another 200 in tow in four lifeboats. Hartenstein broadcast a message in English informing all shipping in the area that he had picked up survivors of the sunken ship.