

0. Wilhelm Gustloff: Deadliest Shipwreck - Story Preface

1. THE SHIP
2. THE COMING ONSLAUGHT
3. SURPRISE ATTACK
4. DEATH AT SEA
5. S-13 STRIKES AGAIN



Bankgastfoto, Bild 103-1027802
Foto: Sönke, Hans 1939 Hamburg

Photograph taken by Hans Sönke in 1939. Image maintained by the German Federal Archives. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

*The surging mass of people
attempted to storm the lifeboats,
hardly anyone hearing the command:
"women and children first."*

Karl Hoffmann

Wilhelm Gustloff Survivor

The night was freezing cold as an estimated 10,582 people (perhaps more) were crammed into the Wilhelm Gustloff.

Most folks on the overcrowded ship, designed to carry 1,865 passengers, were German women and children. They thought they were escaping certain death at the hands of the approaching Soviet Army.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Wilhelm-Gustloff-Deadliest-Shipwreck>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Wilhelm-Gustloff-Deadliest-Shipwreck>

Media Stream



Fleeing Refugees - Boarding the Wilhelm Gustloff

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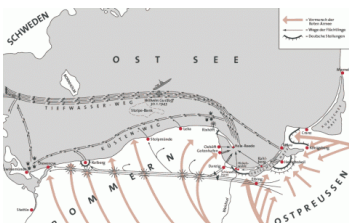


Wilhelm Gustloff - Passengers Overcrowding the Ship

Image online, courtesy the feldgrau.com website.

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Red Army Routes Before Gustloff Sinking

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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