

MERCY SHIPS PLAN SCUTTLED BY NAZIS

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Title: Queen Of The Mob.
Track: Man I Killed.
Lines: Stagg.
Voice: "

The hospital ships did not sail. Nazi treachery wrecked the war-prisoners' hopes on both sides. In good faith we made all medical and transport arrangements, and at the agreed hour the Red Cross was illuminated on each vessel as the German sick and wounded went aboard at Newhaven. The blackout was suspended while they embarked. They were men so incapacitated as to be unfit for war for at least a year. The Hitler Government agreed to the international convention which says that such prisoners should be exchanged, irrespective of whether one side has more than the other. But already, though these Germans were unaware of it, the Nazis were going back on their word. Sailing hour was postponed.

Next day, while there was still some hope of agreement, those who could walk were allowed to exercise ashore. The Nazi Government now pressed for man-for-man exchange, though there was absolutely no question of that when the plan was first suggested. They were trying to blackmail us because we had fifteen-hundred men on the other side.

At Clapham, in a former home for Jewish children, fifty German women awaited repatriation under the same scheme. They'd been brought over from the Isle of Man, where they'd been interned. They too now know that Hitler will turn on his own people when it suits him.

So for the present the mercy ships will not cross the Channel. The Government ordered the Germans to be brought off, having every reason to fear that the Nazis would double-cross. A German is always a German.

(FOUR SCENES WITHOUT VOICE: CU STRETCHER) Not even ^{when} their own sick and wounded would benefit could the Nazis resist the temptation to cheat and lie. One the train that was to have carried our returned prisoners the Germans were taken back to their camps. The miserable episode shows that the Nazis haven't one shred of human feeling.
