

HENRY DUNANT ¹

by

STEPHAN MARKUS

This book, which was first published in 1946, has recently been reprinted in the original German version. The text has been revised by the ICRC and contains a preface by Mrs. Iconomow, a member of the staff of that institution, which describes the rôle of the Red Cross over a period of nearly a hundred years. She points out that only a neutral organization could have intervened in conflicts which have broken out since the war of Schleswig-Holstein. This demonstrates the triumph of Henry Dunant's idea, which he himself so admirably implemented in his thought and in his actions.

L'AFFAIRE DU LACONIA ²

by

LÉONCE PEILLARD

The sinking of the *Laconia* on the evening of the 12th September 1942 off the West coast of Africa was one of the great dramas of the sea. The author's researches and his accurate documentation have resulted in revealing the actions of all the protagonists during the hours of darkness and the days which followed. And if these are matters of keen interest to the naval historian, they also reveal most vividly that the subsequent rescue operations can be regarded as being a fine example of humanitarian action in time of war. Although these operations were carried out by no less than four German U-boats (including U.156 which had sunk the ship), one Italian submarine and three French warships from Dakar, the rescuers methodically continued their task throughout six days, at considerable risk from hostile action.

¹ Ott-Verlag, Thun.

² Published by Editions Robert Laffont, Paris, 1961.

BOOKS

There had been nearly 3,000 passengers and members of the crew on board the *Laconia* when she sailed from Port Said. These included details of the British armed forces and 80 women and children returning to the United Kingdom, some Polish troops and 1,800 Italian prisoners of war. There were a little more than one thousand survivors. Many of those who escaped the agonies of thirst, the merciless rays of the sun and the shark-infested seas paid tribute to their rescuers.

The finest traditions of the sea and humanity were thus upheld by all who had taken part in the rescue.

M. C. S. P.

HOMELESS NO MORE ¹

by

S. GRODKA AND G. HENNES

In its December 1960 issue, the *Revue internationale* convincingly stressed the importance of private aid to refugees on a world scale.

The National Council of Churches in New York has recently published a report on the settlement under its auspices of 113,000 refugees during the course of the past few years. This pamphlet, which has been produced in English in New York, is a particularly interesting testimony of what private initiative has been able to achieve for refugees.

¹ The National Council of Churches in the USA, New York, 1960.