




Wilhelm Gustloff as a [hospital ship](#). [Danzig](#), 23 September 1939

Career (Nazi Germany)	
Name:	<i>MV Wilhelm Gustloff</i>
Namesake:	Wilhelm Gustloff
Owner:	Deutsche Arbeitsfront
Operator:	Hamburg-South America Line
Port of registry:	Hamburg , Germany
Builder:	Blohm & Voss
Cost:	25 million Reichmarks
Yard number:	511
IMO No. :	5614855
Laid down:	1 August 1936
Launched:	5 May 1937
Acquired:	15 March 1938
In service:	No
Out of service:	Yes
Identification:	Radio ID (DJVZ)
Fate:	Requisitioned into the Kriegsmarine on 1 September 1939
Career	
Name:	Lazarettsschiff <i>D</i> (Hospital Ship <i>D</i>)
Operator:	Kriegsmarine (German navy)
Acquired:	1 September 1939
In service:	22 September 1939 – 20 November 1940
Status:	Converted to floating barracks beginning 20 November 1940, including repainting from hospital ship colors to standard navy grey.

Career	
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Name:	<i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i>
Operator:	Kriegsmarine
Acquired:	20 November 1940
Out of service:	November 1940 – January 1945
Fate:	Torpedoed and sunk 30 January 1945
Notes:	Used as floating barracks for the Second Submarine Training Division until the vessel returned to active service ferrying civilians and military personnel as part of Operation Hannibal

General characteristics ^[1]

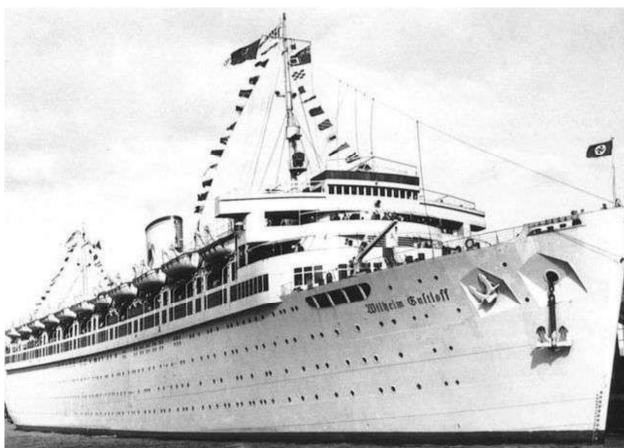
Class & type:	Cruise ship
Tonnage:	25,484 GRT
Length:	208.5 m (684 ft 1 in)
Beam:	23.59 m (77 ft 5 in)
Height:	145 m (475 ft 9 in)
Draught:	65 m (213 ft 3 in)
Decks:	5
Installed power:	9,500 hp (7,100 kW)
Propulsion:	4 × 8-cylinder MAN diesel engines 2 × 4-blade propellers
Speed:	15.5 kn (28.7 km/h; 17.8 mph)
Range:	12,000 nmi (22,000 km) at 15 kn (28 km/h; 17 mph)
Capacity:	1,465 passengers (as designed) in 489 cabins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 248 two-bed • 241 four-bed
Crew:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 417 cruise ship • 20 officers, 145 enlisted (naval)
Armament:	3 × 105 mm (4.1 in) anti-aircraft guns 8 × 20 mm (0.79 in) anti-aircraft cannons ^[2]

The **MV *Wilhelm Gustloff*** was a German passenger ship which was sunk on 30 January 1945 by a Soviet submarine.

Summary : The MV Wilhelm Gustloff was a German KdF flagship during 1937–1945, constructed by the Blohm & Voss shipyards. It sank after being torpedoed by the Soviet submarine S-13 on 30 January 1945. The Wilhelm Gustloff's final voyage was during Operation Hannibal in January 1945, when it was sunk while participating in the evacuation of civilians, military personnel, and Nazi officials who were surrounded by the Red Army in East Prussia. The Gustloff was hit by three torpedoes from the S-13 in the Baltic Sea under the command of Alexander Marinesko on the night of 30 January 1945 and sank in less than 45 minutes. An estimated 9,400 people were killed in the sinking, possibly the largest known loss of life occurring during a single ship sinking in recorded maritime history.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 103-107992
Foto: Sörensen, Hans | 1939 Herbst



K. d. F.-Schiff „Wilhelm Gustloff“

