

To-Day Is the First Anniversary of the Murder of 115 American Men, Women and Children by the Sinking of the Lusitania

This is a photograph of some of the American children murdered on the Lusitania. They died because they crossed the pathway of a German purpose. They went to their deaths protected by the law of nations and under the guarantee of their American citizenship. The act of murder has not been disavowed, although a year has passed. The policy of murder has not been abandoned, and other children are to-day exposed to the same peril. Their country has not found in the slaughter of these children a duty to protect other children. The men who make American laws and policy have not merely abandoned these children because they were afraid—they have accused these children of a crime—of the crime of being Americans when to be Americans was to ask their country to protect them. A nation which does not protect its children may perish; a country which forsakes its dead and fears to defend its living may vanish—but its shame will never die. To-day is the anniversary of the Lusitania massacre. Is it not a day that can be more appropriately observed by Americans of the present time than the 19th of April or the Fourth of July? Is it not as fully expressive of our country to-day as Patriots' Day or Independence Day is of the men who stood on Lexington Green or framed the Declaration of Independence?



On May 7, 1915, this family of seven—Mrs. Paul Crompton and her six children, of Philadelphia—went down with the Lusitania

Photo by Mathilde Weil from Underwood & Underwood.

