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THE SINKING OF THE LISBON MARU



TITLE:	The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru
LOGLINE:	In the midst of World War II, the Lisbon Maru is torpedoed while carrying hundreds of British prisoners of war, triggering a desperate fight for survival as men are trapped in locked cargo holds, abandoned by their captors, and left to face certain death—until a group of courageous Chinese fishermen risk everything to save them, revealing a powerful true story where humanity endures against the brutal indifference of war.
ENGLISH SHOWCASE:	Please Click Here (Password: Promos)
FORMAT:	Documentary
GENRE:	History / Documentary / War
PRODUCTION YEARS:	2023
PRODUCTION COMPANY:	Laurel Films
EPISODE QUALITY:	Available in HD
STORY THEMES:	Truth, Tragedy, Investigation
PRODUCER:	Fang Li
DIRECTOR:	Ming Fan, Lily Gong, Fang Li
SYNOPSIS:	<p>This compelling documentary follows Fang Li, an independent Chinese marine physicist, as he uncovers the truth behind a forgotten WWII tragedy. After discovering the underwater wreckage of the <i>Lisbon Maru</i>, Fang and his team embark on an exploration of this complex wartime incident involving Britain, America, Japan, and China.</p> <p>On October 2, 1942, the <i>Lisbon Maru</i>, a Japanese freighter carrying 1,816 British prisoners of war, was torpedoed in the East China Sea by an unwitting American submarine. As the ship sank, Japanese forces battened down the British POWs in the holds, leaving them to die. Some prisoners broke free at the last moment; 384 were rescued by Zhoushan fishermen, while 828 perished.</p> <p>Racing against time, Fang Li's team launched a global investigation 80 years post-event. They sought witnesses and descendants through various means, including full-page British newspaper ads. Their efforts connected them with POW descendants and amassed evidence. Crucially, they interviewed centenarian survivors and rescuers, preserving vital testimonies.</p> <p>The film artfully weaves together interviews, international investigations, historical research, and exquisitely crafted animations. With cinematic prowess, it brings the past vividly to life. Through these elements, it paints a compelling picture of the British POWs' ordeal—their terror and chaos, dignity and courage in the face of death, longing for loved ones, and the selfless heroism of Zhoushan fishermen.</p> <p>The film focuses on individual stories against the backdrop of war, creating a collective portrait that illustrates the devastating impact of war on individuals and families. It also examines the complexities of war by presenting viewpoints from various perspectives, including American submarine crew members and the Japanese captain. It reveals how people from different positions react in extreme circumstances, showing how individuals become both cogs in the war machine and victims themselves.</p> <p>This documentary transcends a mere historical retelling; it is a contemplation of human benevolence and atrocity, a timely reminder of the cruelty and absurdity of war, and a commemoration of those long forgotten.</p>

