PALESTINE CARGO IS SEIZED BY EGYPT
New York Times (1857-Current file); Jun 24, 1948; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
pg. 51

PALESTINE CARGO IS SEIZED BY EGYPT

Taken at Port Said From U. S. Liner President Monroe Despite a Protest

Egyptian customs authorities in Port Said seized Palestine-bound cargo from the American President liner President Monroe when the ship called there last month, it became known here yesterday.

The ship arrived at Pier 9, Jersey City, with fifty-nine passengers after a round-the-world run that took 103 days. F. A. Yokinen, the chief purser, said that Capt. J. D. Cox had filed a protest with the United States Consul in Port Said after the cargo was appropriated. The seized items were sixty-six cases of tea and twenty bales of grass from Hongkong that was to be used in the manufacture of twine.

Because of the Arab-Jewish war, passengers on the ship were not permitted to go ashore at Port Said or Suez by order of port officials.

The 5,900-ton cargo brought here by the ship included three live items listed as Erlo von Bornfeld, 1 year old, and Helma Oenz and Bellina von Rigibuhl, 7 and 9 months of age, respectively. The three are St. Bernard dogs of distinguished canine ancestry en route from their native Switzerland to a consignee in Oregon. All survived the ocean crossing without difficulty.

Static cargo items included cashew nuts, rubber, accordions, olive oil, cheese, cotton waste, leather, walnuts, goat skins, lamb skins and sandalwood.

Crew members of the President Monroe were warned on the voyage to take precautions against Shanghai footpads.

A notice from the United Seamen's Service headquarters in Shanghai, issued by William L. Tryon, port director, and posted on the liner's bulletin board for ship's personnel, read:

"We offer these few suggestions for the protection of your officers and crew. Shanghai is a tough port. There are gangs of thugs who prey on merchant seamen."

"The small police force makes for inadequate police protection. Assault and robbery of seamen is an almost daily occurrence. Rickshaw drivers, aware of your ignorance of the city, will take you into a dark, small side street where their gang is waiting to jump you. Other gangs operate in the Broadway waterfront district. (This area is so bad that the Navy put it off limits to all sailors)."

The notice was followed by a list of admonitions that included the following:

"Don't go ashore alone. The individual seaman is a fly for these spiders.

"Stay out of fights. He who runs stays out of jail."

It was suggested also that when seamen traveled in Shanghai in groups, some should maintain sobriety to cope properly with possible emergencies.

The President Monroe is scheduled to leave here on her next round-the-world trip on July 2.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.