

## Queen Mary Brings 2,331 Here Safely

*New York Times* (New York, NY, USA)

05.09.1939, Seite 16

Original:

Signatur: R-A 2.1.014/017

---

## Queen Mary Brings 2,331 Here Safely

Passengers Tell of Blackout and Calm Acceptance of War Declaration

Many Notables Aboard

Remarque Says War Will Not Be Waged at Front, but on Women and Children

The Cunard White Star Liner Queen Mary arrived safely yesterday morning with 3,562 passengers aboard. Among her 2,331 passengers were the usual quota of notables and 250 extra persons who slept on cots in public rooms. Celebrities and cot passengers alike told a story of a completely blacked-out sailing, a sad but calm acceptance of the news of the declaration of war, and admirable morale and service on the part of the crew.

The notables included J. P. Morgan, Myron C. Taylor, Dean Virginir Gildersleeve of Barnard College, the Rapes of Sarawak, Bob Hope, Dr. Solomon Goldman, president of the Zionist Organization of America, and Erich Maria Remarque, who made the horrors of the last war and its aftermath vivid to millions of readers in »All Quiet on the Western Front« and »The Road Back«.

The news of the declaration of war was broadcast about 8 A.M. Sunday. Few passengers were in the public rooms to hear it, but it spread rapidly through the ship. The Rev. F. J. Moore of Cincinnati, a tourist passenger, was at holy communion when he first heard it. He passed it on to the officiating minister and special prayers were said.

A transcription of Mr. Chamberlain's address was broadcast at 11:30 A. M. Devine services followed shortly afterward. Nothing was said about the war, Miss Gildersleeve said, but every one was deeply moved and the hymns took on a new significance. After the final benediction, every one stood and sang »God Save the King.«

### Cruiser on Guard

Miss Gildersleeve said she then went on deck, where »a gray shape on the horizon materialized into a British cruiser.« Other passengers saw it, too. Miss Gildersleeve said they were relieved to know they were being guarded.

The King's speech was broadcast while the passengers were at luncheon. It was heard in deep silence. At its close the passengers again stood and sang »God Save the King.«

Miss Gildersleeve, who had been in Stockholm presiding at the International Conference of University Women, said that aside from the black nights and the final sad day, the voyage was much like any other one, with music, dancing, horse races and kino. The crew, despite extra passengers being »stuffed everywhere,« was »wonderful,« she said.

W. E. Ferguson of Queensland, Australia, who shared the library with nine other men, and whose wife shared the tea dance room with forty women, said the cot passengers had »got on the ship by the skin of their teeth and were very satisfied with it.«

R-A 2.1.014/017

Mr. Remarque was obviously deeply distressed.

»I would like to tell you in a few sentences what I think of the war,« he said with a despairing shake of his head, »but I can't. I think there is no reason in the whole world for any war, think what you will. This will not be a war on the front. It will be a war on women and children.«

Mr. Remarque has lost his German citizenship and is traveling with an identification certificate from Switzerland, where he has been living. He has been working on a new novel dealing with refugees. Its title is »Flotsam.«

Asked if he would fight, Mr. Remarque, who is 41 years old, said no. He could not fight against Germany, he said, but he implied that if there were civilian work for him in France he would be willing to take it.

Mr. Taylor, formerly chairman of the board of United States Steel and now chairman of the Intergovernmental Commission on Refugees, said he had been on a mission for the government and that he could not talk for publication.

Dr. Goldman, who was on board together with fifty other American delegates to the recent World Zionist Congress at Geneva, issued a prepared statement on the attitude of Zionists toward the war.

#### »Fighting For All of Us«

»The British and French are fighting for all of us,« he said. »Despite the injustice perpetrated on our movement by the recent White Paper on Palestine, we instantly decided where our duty lies. In the present struggle Zionists, as always, will be found on the side of humanity and civilization.«

»The new struggle for justice inspires Zionists with renewed hope. The Balfour Declaration was conceived and born when mankind was fighting for democracy. We believe that declaration will not only receive reaffirmation now but also its implementations. The Zionists of the United States will understand their special responsibility in this grave hour.«

Others in the Zionist party included Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, president of Hadassah; Mendel N. Fisher, executive director of the Jewish National Fund; Miss Nell Ziff, president of Junio Hadassah; Mrs. David de Sola Pont and Morris Margulies, secretary of the Zionist Organization of America. Most of the Zionists were present at the Church of England service held on Sunday, Dr. Goldman said.

Bob Hope, the film comedian, was about the only passenger interviewed who had a smile for the war. He had sung a song at the ship's concert, he said. Its tune was that of »Thanks for the Memory,« but he had composed new and topical words for it.

Among the other passengers were Mrs. Frank Hague, wife of the Mayor of Jersey City, and her 11-year-old daughter, Peggy Ann, who were met by the Mayor at Quarantine; Harry M. Warner, president of the Warner Brothers Film Corporation; Mgr. Leonard Borgetti of West New York, N.J., who cut short his vacation in Italy to get home; Mrs. Ralph Haigh of Boston, who brought Julia, her 4-month-old baby, with her, and Millicent Mercer of Clifton, N. J., a student at Passale Collegiate School.