REPATRIATED GERMANS ARRIVE AT ROTTERDAM

"This Is Only a Temporary Truce," One Remarks as He Steps Ashore.

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Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

THE HAGUE, July 16.—The German band on board struck up as the American transport Princess Matoika arrived at Rotterdam yesterday from Charleston with 1,900 Germans on their way home.

Captain Hinkley, speaking to THE NEW YORK TIMES correspondent, said that the voyage had been uneventful, that the Germans had behaved well, and that a German committee headed by Captain Heinler, formerly of the Vaterland, had signed a document testifying to their good treatment. The passengers all looked healthy and consumed 40 per cent. more food than American troops usually did.

Among the passengers were 131 officers and 1,100 seamen of German ships interned in America. The rest were women and children. The German officers willingly gave up their quarters to the women and children, sharing accommodations with the crews. The transport was formerly the Princess Alice of the Hamburg-American Line. She was damaged as much as possible by her crew before she was taken over by the United States in a Philippine port, but was converted into a transport, and sailed for Brest twenty-six days after her arrival at New York.

The former German Captain of the Matoika was also aboard under somewhat different circumstances than forformerly, as he remarked.

The only striking incident of the voyage occurred when a pretty young German girl announced that she was willing to pay $2,000 to any American who would marry her and take her back to the United States. Two of the crew who volunteered were promptly severely reprimanded by Captain Hinkley.

The Germans began disembarking this morning early, and were checked up by the Americans aboard and afterward went through an elaborate checking system of thumbmarks by German authorities.

Long trains were waiting at the docks, and German Red Cross members, assisted by Dutch, distributed bouquets, cigarettes and food to the travelers on the train. German military naval attaches from The Hague also assisted to entrain their countrymen and take charge of the disembarking and unloading of the baggage, but were politely informed that the transport was American soil.

The Germans all seemed glad to return to the fatherland, but did not appear to feel that they were returning to a conquered country.

"This is no peace; only a temporary truce," were the words of one of them.

The Princess Matoika will sail July 18 carrying army and navy officers and men from Rotterdam, American crews of returned Dutch ships, and a Belgian mission going to buy machinery in America. She will call at Antwerp for forty army officers and 700 men from the American base and will also stop at Brest for troops.

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