

CRISTOBAL, C.Z.--THE 23,255-TON CONTE BIANCAMANO, ITALY'S NINTH LARGEST MERCHANT SHIP AND ONLY PASSENGER LINER AMONG THE 65 ITALIAN, GERMAN AND DANISH SHIPS SEIZED IN AMERICAN PORTS, WAS GUARDED TODAY BY A NAVY MINESWEEPER AND A PATROL BOAT.

THE 520 OFFICERS AND CREW MEMBERS, INCLUDING SOME 20 WOMEN STEWARDESSES AND BEAUTY SHOP WORKERS, WERE HELD ABOARD, UNDER GUARD. THEY WERE TAKEN TO A MILITARY POST YESTERDAY MORNING, APPARENTLY TO BE QUESTIONED AND SEARCHED, AND RETURNED TO THE SHIP ABOUT NOON.

THE SHIP WAS TAKEN OVER BY THREE TRUCKLOADS OF SOLDIERS AND ONE OF SAILORS ON ORDERS OF CANAL ZONE MARSHAL JOHN HUSHING.

THE BIANCAMANO DOCKED AT BALBOA LAST JUNE 5, FROM SOUTH AMERICA, EN ROUTE TO ITALY. ITS RADIO WAS SEALED BY CANAL AUTHORITIES JUNE 7. THE NEXT WEEK THE SHIP WAS MOVED TO THE CRISTOBAL DOCK. THE PASSENGERS TRANSFERRED TO OTHER SHIPS AFTER ITALY WENT TO WAR, JUNE 10. BETWEEN JUNE 14 AND NOV. 13, EIGHT LIBEL ACTIONS FOR A TOTAL OF MORE THAN \$500,000 WERE FILED AGAINST THE SHIP.

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