

The Peacemaker

Volume 14

July 15, 1961

Number 10



Bob Kingsley and Regina Fischer prepare to jump from the *Normannia*

WE TRY TO ENTER FRANCE AGAIN

by Millie Gilbertson

from the Walk log for June 22, 1961

Fifty or 60 police are now on the pier, three police launches are cruising about the ship. Streets have been blocked off to keep the supporters back. There are about 30 or 40 of them now. A number of French newspaper men, TV representatives are on the pier. The press that came on board were told to leave or to be prepared to remain on board until about 8 o'clock.

French officials will meet with us at noon to learn of our plans.

It has been decided that high tide is at 4 o'clock and the best time for the action.

Brad mentioned that the last trip back to Southampton was taken care of by the British Railways and this return trip would be handled in the same manner.

We Make Plans on Ship

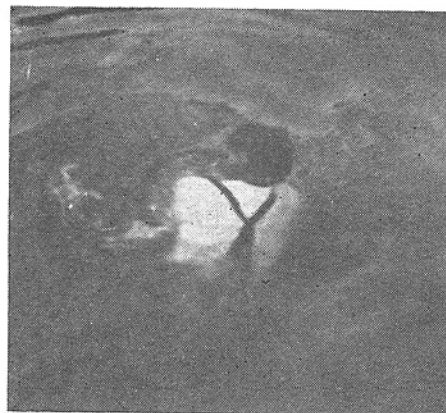
It was decided that notification to concerned persons would be sent out as soon as possible and not wait until two hours before the action as it was in the last demonstration.

Should any swimmer miss being arrested when he got to shore he was to go to Rue Pasteur (21), change clothes and start out walking for Paris.

If anyone felt so moved to leap onto the pier he should feel free to do so. Also anyone who should like to try the gang plank should proceed if the way is seen clear.

Swimmers should not bunch up and head for the same shore. Using a little imagination 14 swimmers should be able to spread themselves pretty thin.

Swimmers agreed, if there was time, as many as possible should repeat the performance at 11:15 when they were brought back. Crew had it



Kingsley swims toward shore

from the police that the swimmers would be returned then. Karl, who had previously been against so many

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engaging in the action, reconsidered and added his name to the list.

Nils, Lyn, Scott, Dave, Ed, Mardy, Karl, Phil, Inge, Gunilla, Regina, Barton, Jerry and Barnaby were on the list of first demonstrations. The group thought that six or less should engage in the later one but would be up to Brad just how many.

We Wait

I can see 20 police, three on the gangplank, patrol boats are still moving about the ship. A police van just backed onto the pier. Elvis Presley is singing on the ship's radio. I just asked two crewmen to carry out press releases and a message to the French supporters. They agreed. The newsmen are not allowed close to us. Brad is preparing the press release for the men to take. The crew has been marvelous to us and were glad to see us again.

There are now five police on the gangplank. Two inspectors just added themselves to the young throng as Brad shows himself at the head of the plank to deliver his letters to the police and immigration officials.

The two crew members with our letters were stopped at the head of the plank and turned back. After many words between crew and police it was decided that only members who had photos on their I D cards could go ashore. One of them produced such a card and left the ship with our messages (tense moment).

Into the Water

Brad and Scott called "over" at 4 o'clock. I saw Gunilla, Jean and Scott drop over the stern, and head for the pier and the first bridge. Two or three others went from the opposite rail. Barnaby headed for the opposite shore. I'm not sure from where he jumped. I ran to the front of the ship to see the developments there and

THE PEACEMAKER is the organ of the Peacemaker Movement, published every three weeks or more frequently as activity or amount of news demands. Inquiries about the organ or the movement and material for publication, as well as subscriptions to the paper or financial contributions to the movement, should be addressed to 10208 Sylvan Avenue (Gano), Cincinnati 41, Ohio.

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found Inge hanging from a cable that extended from the bow to the pier. Ray and Jules were feverishly filming him as he prepared to drop. He dropped and swam around the front of the ship in the direction of where Barnaby was now about to climb ashore. Halfway across Inge was turned back by a large tanker and

he made back toward our ship, then swam past the stern toward the pier and toward the first bridge.

Back to the front of the ship. Two figures were getting smaller and smaller as they walked along the embankment. About ten feet above them the police were walking along. On the street alongside them a police van

Le Havre Demonstrations

First Le Havre Demonstration, June 13

Swam to shore:

1. Regina Fischer (U. S.)
2. Gerald Lehmann (U. S.)
3. Gunilla Myrin (Sweden)
4. Barnaby Martin (Britain)
5. Robert Kingsley (U. S.)

Kingsley was not picked up by the police. The other four all repeated the action, after having been returned to the ship by the police. They were again picked up, and held until just before the ship's departure.

Second Le Havre Demonstration, June 22

Swam to shore at 4 p.m.:

1. Nils Petter Gleditsch (Norway)
 2. Lyn Marsh (England)
 3. Inge Oskarsson (Sweden)
 4. Gunilla Myrin (Sweden)
 5. Barnaby Martin (England)
- (The following are all from the U. S.)
6. Scott Herrick
 7. David Rich
 8. Ed Lazar
 9. Mardy Rich
 10. Karl Meyer
 11. Philip Leahy
 12. Regina Fischer
 13. Barton Stone
 14. Gerald (Jerry) Lehmann

Went down gang plank, shortly after 4 p.m.:

15. Susan Hoffman (U. S.)
16. Cyril Pustan (England)
17. Wynn Evans (Britain—Wales)

Swam to shore, about 11:15 p.m.:

18. Millie Gilbertsen (U. S.)
 19. Erika Bluth (Germany)
- Philip Leahy (repeat swim, the only one that day)

The captain of the ship became very impatient, and pulled away from the dock before the police could finish loading all of the early demonstrators aboard. This left Lyn Marsh, Cyril Pustan and Karl Meyer in France, in addition to the three who swam at 11:15. Kingsley was also still in France. They were all, including Kingsley, returned to England on June 24. Kingsley had been informed that if he appeared in Le Havre, and was prepared to leave France at this time, his passport, which had been held by the police all the time he was in France, would be returned to him and no action would be taken against him. Since there was not much he could do in France at this point, he decided to go.

moved slowly. Then the walkers started up two long ladders to where the police were waiting, sat down, were picked up and carried into the waiting van. I could see a crowd of people running toward the van to see what the excitement was all about. These were not supporters but later ran down to where they were watching the action under the first bridge.

I went back to the stern. On the way I learned that Susan, Cyril and Wynn went off the gangplank when police were diverted by everything else going on.

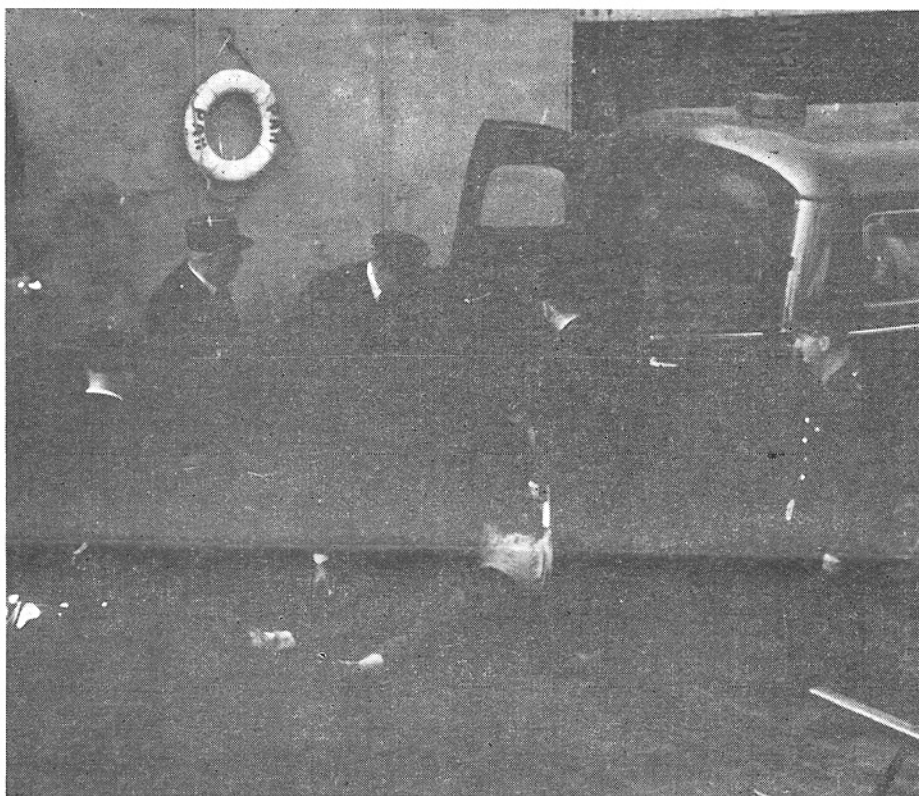
Several swimmers ended up stern side and under the bridge and up a small river. Inge, Scott and Gunilla swam to the second bridge which was about 500 yards, under the next bridge about another 400 yards and I couldn't see how much beyond.

It's all over. . . . The demonstration took a half hour. Much longer than I expected. I went around and found the remaining few still watching. It wasn't over. Scott and Gunilla were not on shore yet. They had gone all the way to the end of the river and turned back and were now almost to the first bridge on the right side. The crowd had swelled from what was estimated to be 600 by the more conservative watchers. . . (Brad estimated a cool thousand) to what could be estimated at 1000.

The crowd shouted from time to time but we could not see anything for a time. Then we saw Gunilla come out of the water and sit down on the shore. The police seemed to drag her a little way. . . . There was a loud growl from the crowd. They then picked her up and carried her up the steps and put her into a waiting police van. Scott stood waist deep in the water and hurled his packet of leaflets into the crowd, then walked to the shore and stretched out flat on the ground. The two or three police looked at him for a while . . . he's a big guy. Then they carried him up the steps amid shouts from the crowd, into the van. I expected to see the crowd disperse then but they didn't; something else held their attention.

Gendarme Overboard

We couldn't tell what it was except that we apparently had one swimmer left in the water. Guess who? Regina. It took another half hour to get her. She, as far as we could make out, had been clinging to a boat apparently waiting to see what was happening to Scott and Gunilla. We heard shouts of laughter and the crowd was thoroughly enjoying whatever it was that was going on. We couldn't see her since she was hidden by the first bridge. Then she appeared in a boat at the opposite shore being rowed by someone. She



Police get ready to carry Barnaby Martin (prone on dock) back on board the *Normannia*

was handed up to a policeman who carried her in his arms up the steps and to the van. Regina had been in the water an hour and 45 minutes.

A few minutes ago a crew member came running back to the ship laughing like anything. He said Regina had gotten herself into a small boat to rest perhaps. A police inspector tried to talk her into coming ashore. She refused. He attempted to get into the boat whereupon the thing sank. This thrilled the crowd.