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## M.V. "GENERAL GUISAN" AT THE LONDON DOCKS.

The M.V. "General Guisan" which was launched at the Dockyards of Messrs. William Gray & Co. Ltd., at West Hartlepool, on the 19th of June, 1947, by Madame Henri Guisan, in the presence of the General, the then Swiss Minister and Madame Paul Ruegger, members of the Swiss and Foreign Press and a large gathering of distinguished guests, has arrived at the King George V Docks in London with a cargo of sugar from Cuba.

Since the launching of this fine vessel had taken place, she has proudly carried the Swiss flag to distant places on the high seas such as Buenos Aires, Vancouver, Durban, Manilla, Hong Kong, Shanghai and many other ports.

To celebrate her first arrival at the London Port, the Directors of the "Suisse Atlantique, S.A." of Lausanne, invited on Thursday, August 18th, 1949, a few guests to a Luncheon on board the ship.

There were present Monsieur E. de Graffenried, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, Monsieur V. Umbrecht, Commercial Attaché, Swiss Legation, Mr. E. A. Grau and Mr. Chas. Gysin of the European Grain Agency Ltd., and Suisse Atlantique, S.A., Mr. E. Steiner, Chairman of the Swiss Economic Council, Mr. A. Renou, Hon. Secretary of the Swiss Economic Council, Mr. P. Moehr, President of the City Swiss Club, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer."

On arrival, the party was received by the captain and his officers, one of whom took the guests round on an extensive inspection tour. The engine room, the captain's, passengers and crews quarters, the bridge and deck were visited and everywhere looked spick and span.

Four of the guests (Messrs. de Graffenried, Grau, Gysin and Stauffer) attended the baptism of the vessel at West Hartlepool, near the Scottish border, two years ago and to them this visit was especially interesting, seeing the ship once again now fully completed and after having sailed practically round the world.

It might be of interest to our readers to know, that the crew numbers thirty-five, of whom twelve members are of Swiss nationality, the rest, captain included are of Italian nationality. (The first officer, is a Vaudois and the wireless operator is a Bernese.)

On completion of the inspection, an excellent luncheon, preceded by cocktails, was served in the well furnished dining room, the captain taking the Chair.

The *Menu* consisted of an elaborate hors d'œuvre, a dish of excellent spaghetti, followed by a "real" fillet steak with various vegetables and as dessert a delicious fruit flan with cream and coffee.

Red wine and Champagne was served *ad. lib.* If this luncheon is any criterion of the fare on board, then I envy the passengers. The chef, who is one of our countrymen, had certainly excelled himself and greatly added to the enjoyment of this visit.

Mr. E. A. Grau, on behalf of the owners of the M.V. "General Guisan" the Suisse Atlantique, S.A.

and the captain, in an excellent little speech welcomed the guests, and expressed the hope, that on a future occasion an opportunity might be afforded to a larger number of the Swiss Colony to visit the boat.

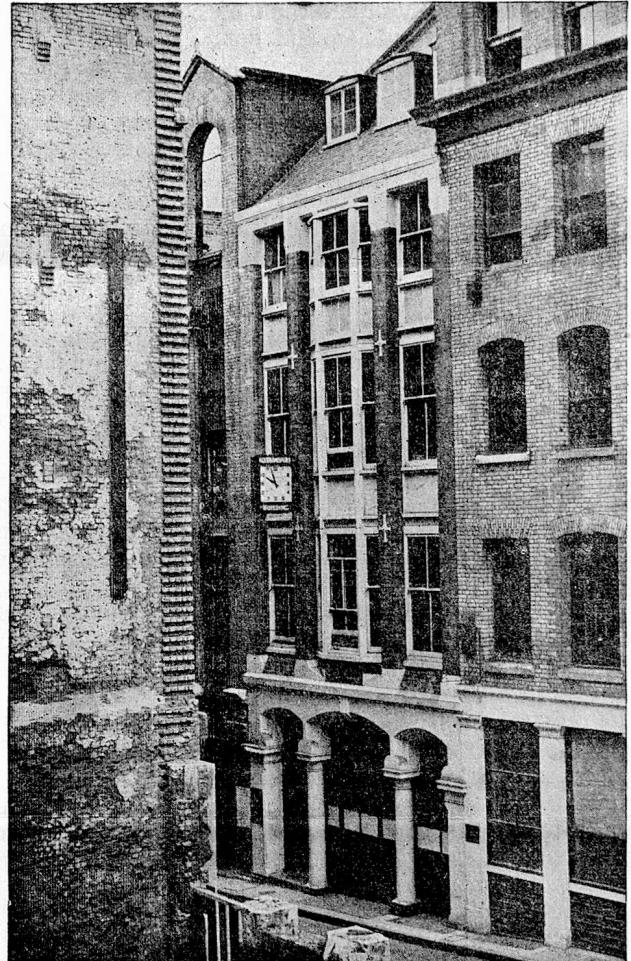
In conclusion the speaker gave a short *compte-rendu* of the vessel's journeys saying that wherever and whenever she touched a port an enthusiastic reception was accorded to her by the various Swiss colonies.

Before leaving the ship a message from the visitors to General Guisan was sent off.

To see this fine vessel, carrying proudly the Swiss flag, amongst the many ships in the Dock, was indeed an inspiring experience which will remain a treasured memory to all those who were privileged to be present.

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