

of Nahariya had left their work to help in the disembarkation. About 128 Jews were detained out of an estimated number of 720 passengers of the ARCHIMEDE.

The majority of the immigrants who were captured, were Rumanian with a number of Poles, Czechs and Hungarians; the average age of the passengers was about 30. It would appear that some of them stayed in camps around Milan and Genoa for the greater part of 1947, moving via Rome to a beach near GAETA to the north of Naples. From text-books and brochures of Palestine, found in the luggage of the passengers, it is concluded that a course of instruction was held on board during the voyage.

It may be concluded that HAGANAH intended to make use of the sailing of the PAN-ships as a diversion.

## (2) THE PAN YORK AND PAN CRESCENT

On the same day as the landing of the ARCHIMEDE, at about 10 o'clock in the morning, a peculiar disembarkation began. Both ships volunteered to discharge their passengers in FAMAGUSTA harbour in Cyprus, in order to alleviate any trouble which might arise had they done so off the coast of Palestine. These ships, as was the case with a number of previous ones, sailed under Soviet auspices from the Bulgarian port of BURGAS.

The load was drawn almost entirely from Rumania and it was noticeable that complete families including aged grandparents and very young children were on board, the latter forming the highest proportion for the last year. No weapons were brought by the passengers and the standard of discipline and cheerfulness provided a remarkable and welcome change for the troops in charge of disembarkation.

Businessmen and professional men formed a large part of the immigrants, who proved most helpful in supplying information which slightly raised the "Iron Curtain" in Russian-controlled Rumania. They said that life was so difficult to a degree of being almost unbearable: the volume of Burocracy is so immense that a card or form, must be obtained before any movement, business or otherwise necessary action for the propagation of life.

The organisation before embarkation was very complex and, as on board the ships, was carried out in a most efficient manner. Originally the ships were to have departed from Constanza, the change of plans, apparently being due to "Political Reasons". The food on board was good, but there was a great lack of variety, although American tinned-stuffs supplemented the ration. As for the crew, most were American with pronounced Brooklyn accents, which they attempted unsuccessfully to conceal and, from evidence collected, it would seem that at least one senior officer was Italian.

## BATTALION INCIDENTS

The Bn. continued with the task of controlling the Manshiya and Abu Kabir areas of Jaffa until relieved on the 12th. by the Grenadier Guards. In