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9/1/2014

Some of the smaller children didn't even have clothes on them.

The journey continued. We arrived at OUDJA and another town of a similar name OUJDA. Signs were in Arab and French. Finally we reached the "once" capital of Morrocco- FEZ or FES. This was really a prettier town. Anyway the station was more modern than any other we had gone through. We arrived there on a Friday night I remember. We went into a beautiful eating place. When we got through, we were on the train again. Little incidents happen which take long to be told. One incident I'll tell: We were arriving at a small town, and saw natives outside. My friends and I stuck our heads out of one of the windows. An arab held up a small baby as if he wanted to give it to us. We were very surprised. Then in a few french words he said: for a few francs only. We of course refused. We continued on. Sometimes my boyfriend and I would sit on the steps, while the door was open, and if we had enough water we would sprinkle it on a washrag and put it over our faces in order to cool off. The trouble was that we didn't have enough water for washrags.

We saw the ATLAS MOUNTAINS. Early Saturday morning we reached CASABLANCA. We all were really glad to have reached our "1st" destination. We waited on a modern street near the city. Then we had a special bus which took us to Casablanca. We were put in a "school". There we met the "first transport" which had left before us. We were glad to be together again. I didn't get to know Casablanca well, but I got an idea of the city. Some places it was very modern, with skyscrapers. Many of its inhabitants were "western" people, but everywhere one could see arabs and natives. In Casablanca we remained for 2 days, then we were ready to leave for the United States. A bus arrived (2) and took us to the large harbor. Everyone of us was looking for a large steamer. There it was! right in front of us. The harbor was fairly crowded.

First we had to pass by an examiner or officials. After waiting a little while we were allowed to board the ship. First thing I did was to find out its name. It was "NYASSA" a portuguese ship. We were shown to our section of the ship. I slept next to a porthole. It was by the bow of the ship. Next thing we all did was go upstairs. Some people at in the restaurant, if that's what you call it. Then later we all moved to the back end of the ship. We all filled up the railing. A boy got excited and yelled: Look! a battleship. It was the JEAN BART, 35,000 ton battleship, lying at anchor near us. I never had seen a battleship before. I remember perfectly this all was on a monday. We were scheduled to leave the harbor at 7 P.M. It was too long for us to wait. We went down to eat. There was plenty of food. We became friends with some of the sailors who only spoke portuguese. We always drank cold tea after our dinners, so most of us learned of one portuguese work "Chad" which means tea. Now we were on our way. The harbor of Casablanca, was slowly getting farther away from us. Soon, all we saw was the coast of Africa. All of a sudden I became dizzy. My insides felt like they were pulled back and forth. I look for a leaning chair, which I found, and lay down on the deck. The breeze was soft, and could put you to sleep. Soon it was all over. We watched the sea.





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As it became late, we all went down to our sleeping quarters. We talked until late that evening, and went to sleep.

Morning came. I soon got to know the Nyassa very well. There were parties and balls on some evenings. The ship has one funnel. It was a fairly large boat. Most people would sit in chairs almost all day on deck. There were games to play. Everything was gay on the ship on the inside and outside. When we had storms then the gaiety was inside. We were a few days on the Nyassa already. We got to know its captain. He even went as far as letting some of my friends and I go downstairs to the ships' motors. It was worth the experience. We had to walk down many iron steps. It was hard for anyone to hear because of the terrific noise there. Most of the men were dirty of course. We went into the "coal section". There we saw big furnaces. Men kept on feeding them with coal. Some of the threw buckets of water on top of themselves in order to cool off. A man explained to us the different motors etc. I found out from one of the men that the Nyassa had been built in Germany. Germany sent it to Holland, and later Holland sold it to Portugal. Later we had our supper and went to the cabin. A couple of times an emergency whistle blew, which meant for us to get into our life belts. This was just for practice. We knew there were many German U.Boats, but they wouldn't torpedo us because the ship was of a neutral country. It was getting near to a week when we started the trip. We were heading for the BERMUDA ISLANDS. This meant that we were nearing America. It was the day that we were supposed to see the islands. The captain said that about 11 A.M. we'll see the islands. There was a mistake and the arrival was set for about 1 P.M. Most of the passengers were on deck now. Soon one of the people became excited and yelled that he saw the isles. Yes! there they were. It was a rock in the distance. As we approached we saw 2 U.S navy torpedo bombers (fighters). They came so close to the ship that we could see they - (pilots) didn't have a shirt on. They waved and we waved back at them. You can imagine how most of us felt. The planes flew over and around us at least 10 times. By now we were near the entrance of "Hamilton" Harbor. HAMILTON is Bermuda's capital. It was hot weather. We saw many yachts, and sailing boats. We also saw Clippers (seaplanes) take into the air from the sea. It had to be careful steering for whoever guided the ship through the small isles. Finally we reached Hamilton. We weren't allowed to get off the ship. We saw all kinds of soldiers and sailors. British and American. Bermuda is a British Naval Base. As soon as we landed, British soldiers came on the ship for inspection. Many of the guards gave us sticks of chewing gum. That is what we wished mostly. We stayed in Bermuda I believe for about a week. The ship lay in the harbor. Finally we left the Bermuda Islands. (I forgot to mention; we had a picnic. We all chartered a small boat which took us across one of the channels, to another island. There we went swimming and played, ate water-mellon and other foods. It was a rich woman who had invited all of us there. We were on our way again. Soon we were nearing the U.S. Coast. We were one "day" away from it. We had already seen a few convoys of ships which I believe were going to Britain. We all were waiting for the "minute" when we'll see the coast. It was just as exciting to us as to Columbus to see America.