

Ile de France Arrives in Port

Famous French Liner, With 1583 Passengers Aboard, Completes First Peacetime Trip.

A ship, once regarded as the most beautiful on the seas, the French Line's Ile de France, completed her first peacetime passenger service crossing to New York today when she docked at Pier 88, North River, bringing 1,583 passengers who could see little of the vessel's former grandeur in the stripped compartments still equipped with troop bunks.

The 43,450-ton ship, used as a British transport during the war, soon after the first of next year will be reconverted to something approaching the beauty which she had when she was launched in 1927. Her marble-columned dining salon was regarded then as one of the most beautiful aboard any ship afloat, but its luxury fittings were scattered in such widely scattered ports as Singapore, San Francisco and Calcutta when she was called to war service.

"She returned to New York like a horse coming home without a driver," said Capt. Herve Le-Huede, commandant of the ship. Her main hull remains a wartime gray, although the stacks have been repainted black and red and the forepart of the superstructure has been repainted white in keeping with the French Line's colors. The Ile de France will sail November 1 for Southampton and Cherbourg.

Emerald King Abroad.

William Howard Hoeffler, internationally known as the emerald

king, was aboard, presumably with \$1,250,000 worth of rough emeralds, which he declined to show reporters.

Hoeffler, who lives at 407 Park avenue and who is president of the Muzo Emerald Mines, Ltd., and of Trabert & Hoeffler, Inc., jewelers, said the rough emeralds had been in bank vaults in Europe, having been mined in his Muzo mines in Colombia. He said the finest stones will be cut in New York and others will be sent to India for finishing because of cheaper labor costs.

The man who arose from an obscure boyhood in a tenement district of Manhattan said he had handled several million pounds of jewels in his career.

"My emerald mines in Colombia have not been worked for 15 years," said Hoeffler. "I hope to reopen them soon and to bring the emerald down out of the class of princesses into the realm and reach of all and make it popular—like we have done with the ruby."

When a reporter chided him for wearing a black pearl stickpin, a combination ruby and diamond ring with no emeralds visible, Hoeffler shot his cuffs and displayed huge green emerald cuff links.