

Gerrit Moleman
Dutch Immigrant
Kota Inten
April 18, 1949



Father checked with CPR
Immigration in Rotterdam.

He spoke with a Mr. Klomp who later also immigrated to Canada. When he checked for the ship in the Rotterdam harbour, someone there pointed it out to him and said there wasn't enough money in the world for him to cross the ocean on that small of a ship.

The Kota Inten had been a passenger ship in the 30s and was used during WWII as a troop carrier; when our family took it, it belonged to the Holland American Line, flew a Dutch flag and was manned by mainly Indonesian crew. They sailed from Rotterdam on April 8, 1948 and arrived in Halifax on the 18th. The ship was rather Spartan: they washed in sea water; women and children slept in one area, men in another. For "lights out", the tune "Grandfather's Clock" was played. Food however was good and could be delivered to quarters by volunteers. There was NO deck furniture and the main hold was covered with a tarp. My Dad does not remember the cost of the trip.

When they arrived in Halifax, he was paged to the wharf to meet a Mr. Sanford from CPR Immigration. Dad said the man mumbled and as he did not understand English too well, he answered mainly "Yes, Sir" or "No, Sir". As they had missed their train connection, we spent that night onboard and caught the train to Chatham, NB the next day.