

Jon Jongen  
Dutch Immigrant  
Seven Seas  
January 15, 1957



The liner originated in Bremer Haven, Germany, but my family and I boarded the following day in Rotterdam, on January 4, 1957.

My family included a younger brother and sister and both parents. There were many immigrants aboard but also refugees from the Hungarian revolt in BudaPest in December, 1956.

We were destined for New York, but made a middle-of-the-night stop-over at Pier 21, presumably to allow passengers to disembark.

I remember going out on the deck with my Agfa Clack camera to take a picture of the surreal view of the ice-covered harbor with the flaming refinery stacks whose glow was reflected in the icy water. It was so cold that my camera could only manage to take one picture before the shutter froze shut.

I never felt such cold, or seen so much snow and ice. It prepared me well for my future winters in upstate New York, on Lake Ontario, where my family settled.

On our trans-Atlantic crossing we encountered a three, or four-masted ship, that we were later told had perished during that crossing. I took a picture of the ship, but without telephoto lens it did not come out very well.

