

Destination: North America



Leaving war-torn Europe

50,000 Refugees Going to Britain

LONDON (Reuters) — Thousands of Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian displaced persons pew in camps in Germany will go to Britain as an addition to the country's manpower. About 50,000 are due in the first six months and a further 50,000 within a year, it was stated by the ecumenical refugee commission.

Province (Vancouver, BC)
June 23, 1947

DP's in Germany Sail for Canada

Frankfurt, Germany, July 24 (Reuters).—The first party of displaced persons leaving Germany for Canada by boat sailed from Bremen later last night.

The 830 passengers — 730 at whom were going to help meet the shortage of lumber workers—included Ukrainian Latvien and Estonian relatives of Canadlans.

A second shipment of displaced persons being recruited by a special immigration team touring the occupied zones is expected to leave in about three weeks.

Globe and Mail (Toronto, ON)
July 25, 1947

20,000 Estonians Ask To Resettle in U. S.

FRANKFURT, Germany, Aug. 25—(A)—Twenty thousand Estonian displaced persons in Germany and Austria have petitioned President Truman to be resettled in the United States, it was learned Monday.

The Estonians assert they can not return to their homeland "because, being democratically minded persons, we cannot accept the absolutist communism and the totalitarian regime imposed upon our home." Estonia is now part of Soviet Russia.

Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK) August 26, 1947

Leaving war-torn Europe

LIBERTY'S STAR LEADS 298 OVER PERILOUS SEAS

Washington, Aug. 23 (Special)-

• • •/

Most of the refugees, who have been coming in a thin stream since late in 1945, found that their dreams of a land of milk and honey were real. Some who arrived in the country saw their first bacon in three years, their first white bread. Others hadn't seen tomatoes for 10 years and some were seeing bananas for the first time in their lives.

/...

Chicago Tribune (Chicago, IL)
August 24, 1948

Reds Demand Expatriation

Refugee Estonians Plead For Asylum In Sweden

FRANKFORT.—With Russia putting pressure on Sweden to repatriate forcibly the Baltic refugees within her borders, the Estonian committee here has submitted a memorandum to Stockholm authorities
pointing out that though Sweden—
unlike the United States and Britain—has recognized the absorption of
Estonia into the Soviet Union,
Estonian nationals cannot be recognized as Soviet citizens without infringing both Swedish and international law.

"Under Soviet law," the memorandum declares, "no one may renounce Soviet citizenship except by order of the U.S.S.R. or erament, although that

> Edmonton Journal (Edmonton, AB) March 9, 1948

are counter-revolutionary criminals under Soviet law, each one a rebel because he has not already returned to Estonia despite repeated orders to do so, the memorandum continues, wherefore "every Ball refugee must have lost his citizanip even supposing he ever of it."

A point emphasized is Estonian refugees do protection of representain fact the S

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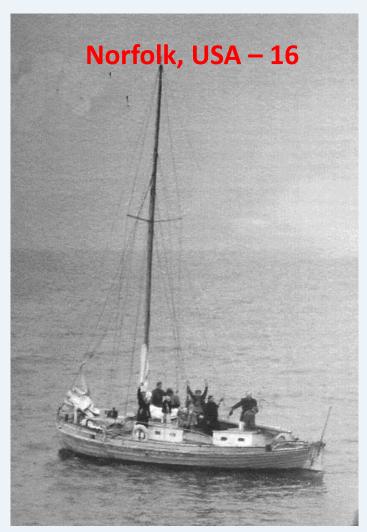
Viking ships, 1945 & 1946 - Destination & passengers



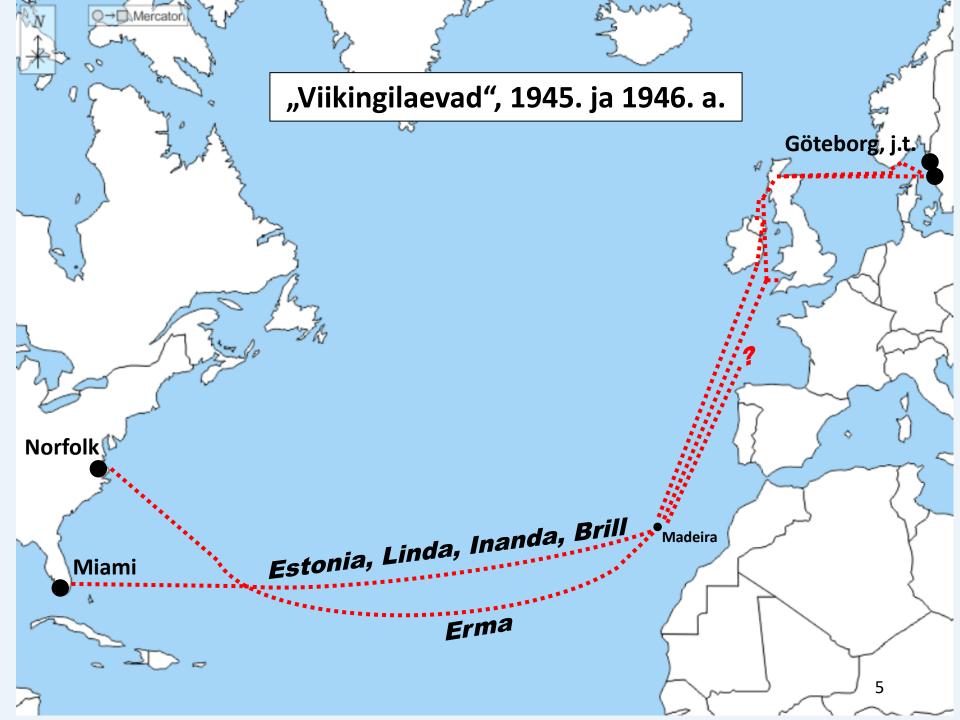
Inanda, 11 m; Brill, 12.2 m; Linda, ? m



Estonia, 11 m



Erma, 11.1 m



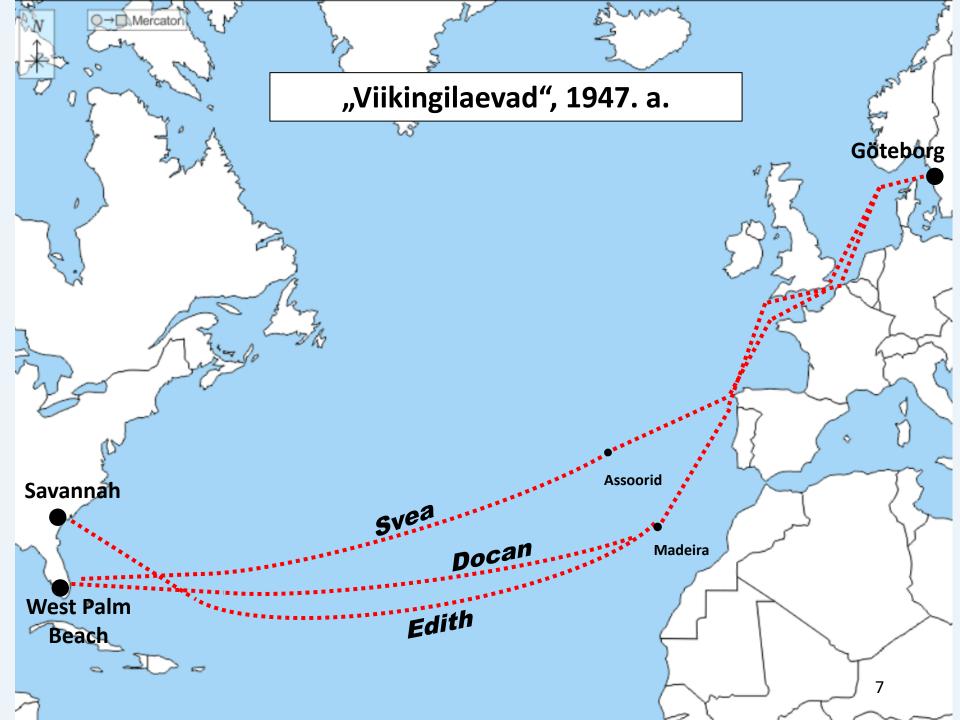
Savannah, USA – 24



Edith, 12.8 m

Photos missing:

- * Docan, 12.2 m (West Palm Beach 5)
- * *Svea*, 12.8 m (West Palm Beach 24)



Wilmington, NC USA – 69



Prolific, 21.2 m

Southport, NC USA – 15



Roland, 11.3 m

Boston, USA – 29 (no Estonians)



Gundel, 19.5 m

St. John's - 42



Atlanta, 26.0 m

Halifax – 347



Walnut, 50.0 m

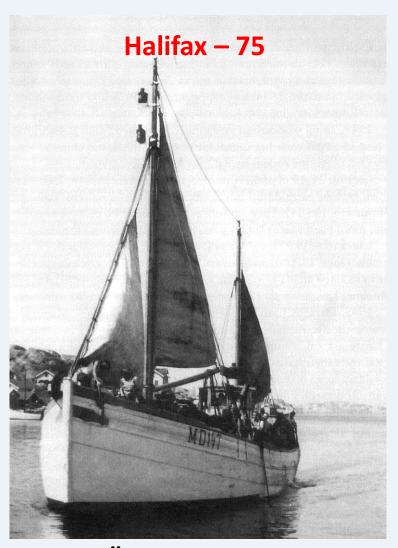
Photo missing:

* Capry, 17 m (Halifax – 25)

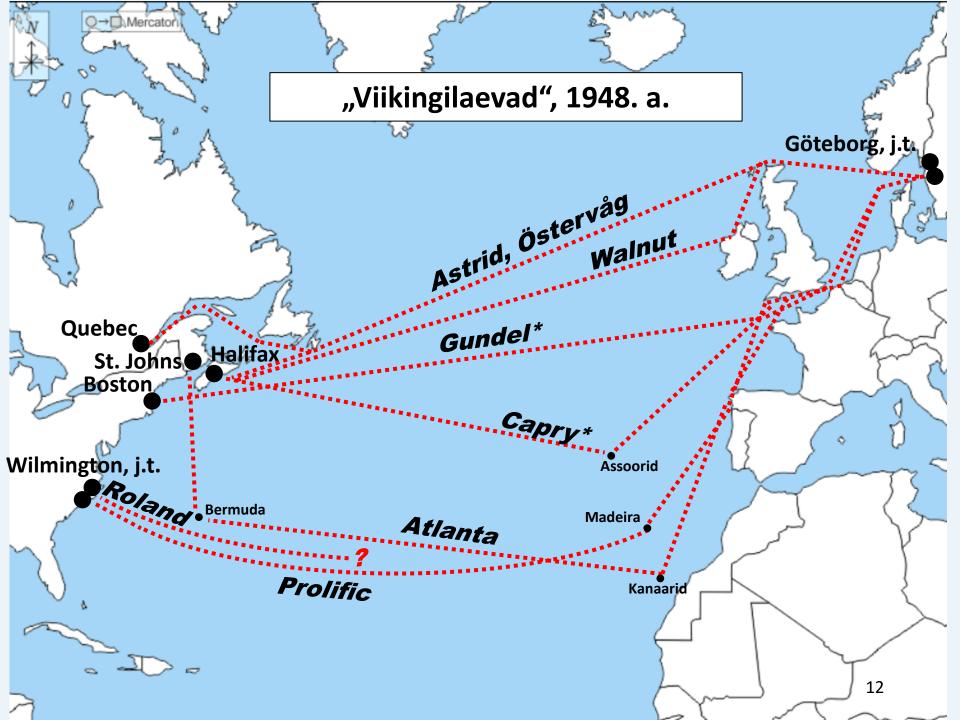
Quebec - 29



Astrid, 13.7 m



Östervåg, 21.4 m



Miami, FL USA – 37



Eeva, 29 m

Halifax – 154



Halifax – 253

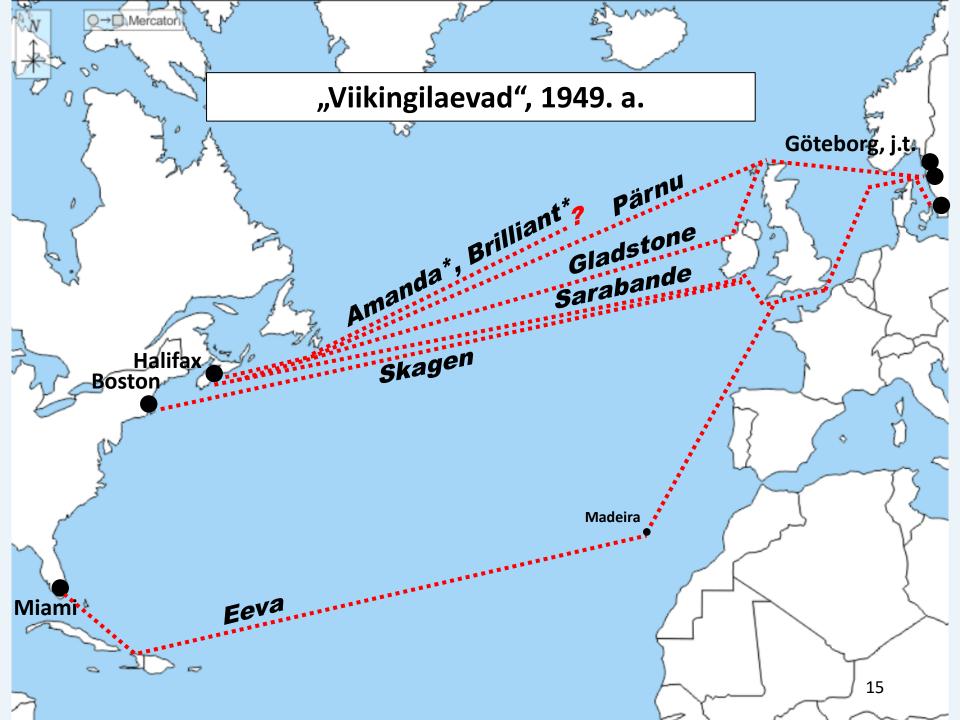
Pärnu, 35 m



- * *Amanda*, 21.1 m (Halifax 31)
- * Brilliant, ? m (Halifax 60),
- * *W.E. Gladstone*, 21.8 m (Halifax 23)
- * Skagen, 36.3 (Boston 84)

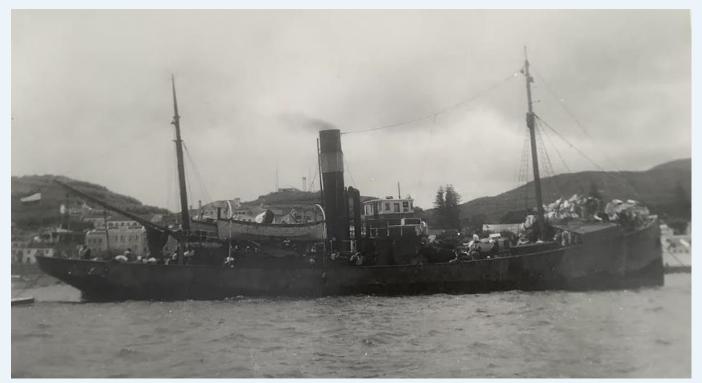


Sarabande, 49.1 m (former British minesweeper)



Viking ships, 1950 & 1951 – Destination & passengers

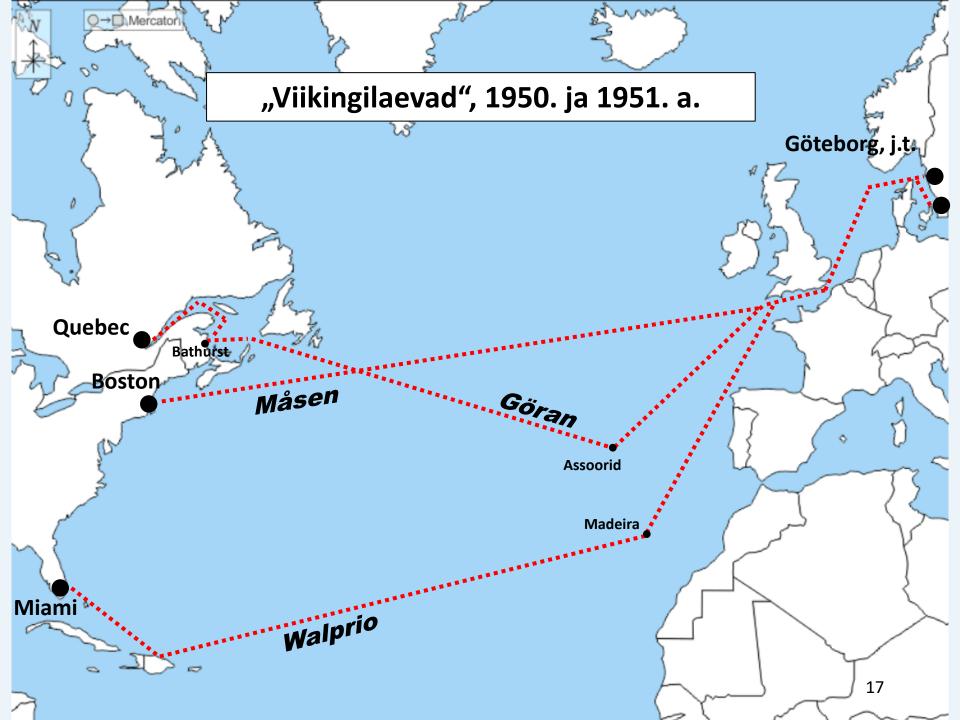
Quebec - 122

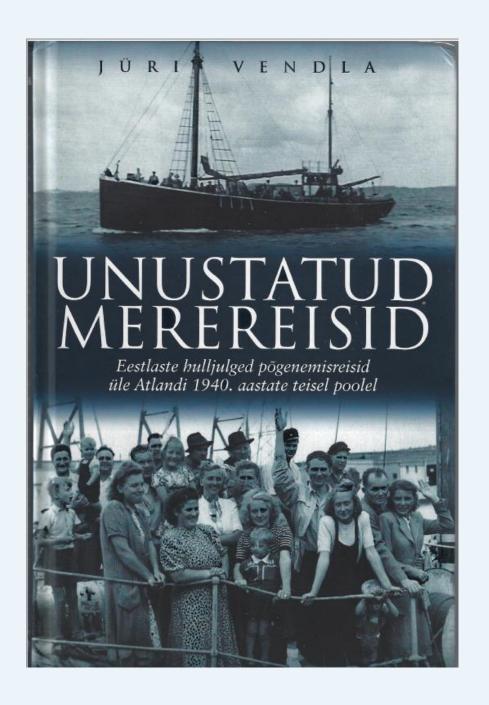


Göran, ?? m

Photos missing:

- * Måsen, 32 m (Boston, USA 108)
- * Walprio, 19.5 m (Miami, USA 11)

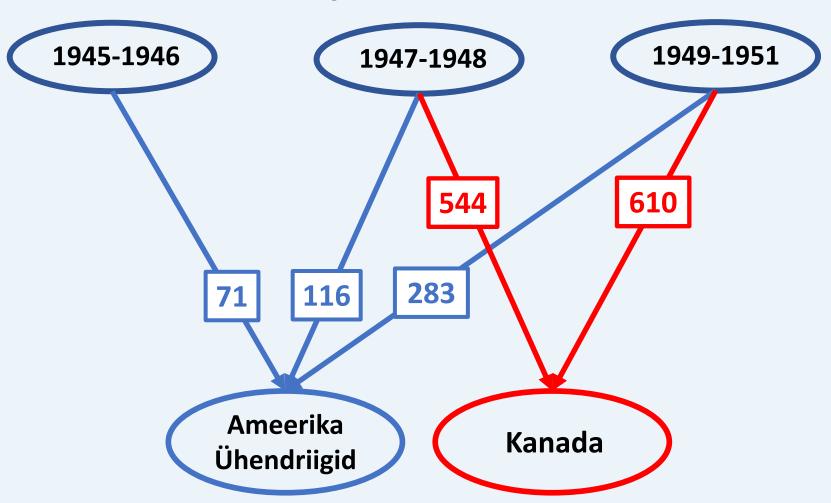




Viking ships (no.) to North America, by passengers per ship

Reisijate arv laeval	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
<15	1	1	1				1
15 - 50	1	2	2	5	5	1	
51 - 100				2	1	1	
> 100				1	2		

Viking ship passengers to North America*, by destination



^{*} Kõik reisijad, mitte ainult eestlased

75th anniversary of viking ship "Edith"

... the first Estonian "Vikings" arrived in Canada in 1948

First steps on Candian soil taken by "vikings" -- Hamilton January 16, 1948 --



ON THEIR WAY TO KITCHENER, the Estonians are seen at Hamilton station before leaving by bus for their new home. In Kitchener, the Lutheran church and the Canadian Lutheran World Relief committee will care for them and place them in jobs. The ship which carried them across the Atlantic to Savannah, Ga., may be brought to Kitchener

"Edith" sets out from Sweden

• 2. juulil 1947. a. väljus 12,8 m pikkune endine kalalaev "**Edith**" Göteborg'ist.

 Björkö saarelt võeti peale ülejäänud kaasasõitjad, kokku 23 eestlast ja üks lätlane, nende hulgas kolme aastane Ants Mets.

Damaged motor repairs on Knippla island, Sweden





First North American newspaper stories about the "Edith"

Sail for U.S. in 40-Foot Boat 22 Estonians Flee Soviet Rule

Penzance, England, July (Reuters)—Twenty-two Estonians including 13 men, eight women and a bay boy—docked last night aboard their 40-foot fishing boat Edith on the first leg of their flight from Russian-dominated Estonia to the United States.

With the Estoman flag flying at

because they were fed up with Russian rule. The adventurers hope that they, will be able to reach Florida in 33 days after leaving Penzance.

They planned to take about 440 gallons of water and just enough food to last the trip if all on board ration themselves.

The Edith was a small engine but the tiny boat's must, the Seafarers the emigrants can not afford the oil said they decided to go to the U.S. to run it and must depend on sail.

Sail For América In 40-Ft Fishing Vessel

PENZANCE. Eng., July 28, (UP) -Twenty-three Estonians, including eight women and a child. sailed Sunday for Miami. Fla., in a 40-foot fishing vessel. They hoped to make the trip in 33 days.

> **Courier News (Blytheville, AL)** July 23, 1947

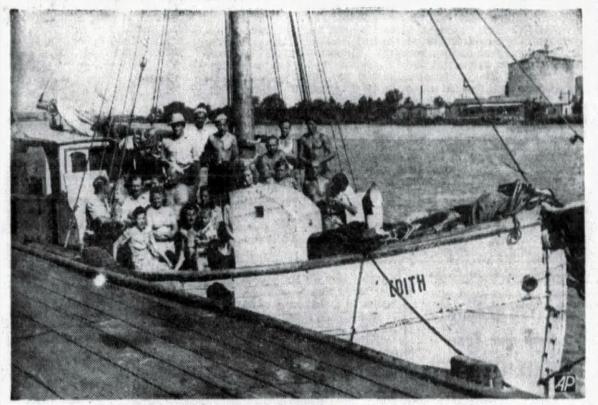
Toronto Star (Toronto, ON) July 23, 1947

"Edith's" vikings in Penzance, England



Safely in Savannah

ESTONIAN REFUGEES REACH SAVANNAH BEFORE STORM



These 24 Estonian refugees arrive safely in Savannah, Ga., aboard their 43-foot fishing sloop, "Edith," at the end of a stormy voyage from Sweden across the north Atlantic in quest of new homes. Their wireless broke down several days ago, and they were not aware of the violent hurricane sweeping up from the south Atlantic. Immigration officials ordered them transferred to Ellis Island in New York. (AP Photo)

Hattiesburg American (Hattiesburg, MISS) September 19, 1947

23 Estonians Arrive In U.S. on Frail Boat

Savannah, Ga., Sept. 17 (UP)
—Twenty-three Estonians landed
their 43-foot sailboat here yesterday happily unaware they
brushed with death near the
giant hurricane in this area.

Immigration officials ordered them taken to Ellis Island in New York. They had not decided on disposition of their boat, and the future of the nine women, 13 men and one boy of three was uncertain.

They will be taken to Ellis Island in a special pullman car taking with them the gifts and food showered on them by Savannahians who admired their bravery in making the perilous 59-day crossing of the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

Courier Post (Courier, NJ) September 17, 1947

Savannah harbour



St. Louis Star and Times (St. Louis, MO) September 18, 1947

Happy to be in Savannah



ESTONIAN REFUGEES—These twenty-three Estonians landed yesterday morning at the municipal dock to complete a fifty-nine day voyage in a 43-foot sloop from Gotenburg, Sweden. They made stops in England and at the Madeira Islands. Smiles on their faces tell of their happiness at reaching America, and now they hope they will be permitted to remain. Their hopes seem slim indeed as Washington directed that they be sent today to Ellis Island, N. Y., for deportation hearings. Savannahians generously showered the Estonians with gifts of food and saw to it that the two and one-half year old boy among their number had dolls and toys. (Photo by Southern Photo Service.)

Savannah Morning News (Savannah, GA) September 17, 1947

...warmly welcomed...

24 Estonians Find It's True About the U.S.

Savannah, Ga., Sept. 17 [Special] — Twenty-four Estonian refugees who battled the Atlantic for 59 days in a 43 foot sloop learned here today that their dreams of a land of milk and honey were real.

Their first proof arrived when a sailor from a navy patrol boat clambacd over the ran of stoop in Savannah harbor, carrying a sac of potatoes and several pounds of bacon.

"We haven't seen bacon in the eyears," expanded Dapper Ludviz Tosine, the only one of the group who speaks English.

A Bakery Contributes

A little later, a bakery sent them two dozen loaves of white bread.

first white bread is need years," said the skipper.

Their next currents came when a avannah insurance man drove to their dock with a bushel of tomatoes.

other members of the party had seen tomatoes for 10 years.

passed when a local fruit dealer brought a gift bunch of bananas.

nanas.

Boy Tastes First Candy

The group aboard the boat included 14 men sine women, and a 2 car old boy, who made his sort acquaintance with candy and jam, given him by Savannah children.

resources to buy the sloop in which they arrived, and left Gotenborg. Sweden, on July 2.

In sharp contrast to the treatment accorded three similar shiploads of refugees who arrived at
Miami last year from Sweden, however, all the occupants of the sloop
today were placed aboard a train
and started for Ellis Island by immigration authorifies. The earlier
groups were permitted to land and
to remain at liberty without bond
for several months. Eventually they
were supplied with permanent visas
thru intercession of President Truman.

No Change In Policy

A spokesman at immigration servbe headquarters in Philadelphia, however, said detention of the new group at Ellis Island is only incidental and does not indicate a change in policy.

The refugees are making the trip to Ellis Island by Pullman.

They are still glad they came.

Chicago Tribune (Chicago, IL) September 18, 1947

... but their stay in USA was uncertain

Modern Vikings Face Immigration Inquiry

Estonians May Beat Deportation

Savannah, Ga., Sept. 20 —(INS)

—A group of Estonian, refugees
who took Savannah by storm are
due to arrive in New York today
on their way to Ellis Island.

The blond, good - looking Estonians wept openly when they boarded a special Pullman at Savannah yesterday on their way to face

immigration officials.

They smiled when told by guards that they might not be returned to Russian - dominated Estonia or to Sweden. They wrote cards to their families telling them of the shower of food, clothing, money and kindness bestowed upon them by Savannah citizens.

The towspeeple openly wished them luck and expressed hope that these people— "fine, Norgh modern Vikings"—would be allowed to remain in America. They were likened to pioneers who made his country great.

the Estonians braved the Atlantic, is under guard in Savannah port, and fined \$24,000 for illegal entry.

Staying in the USA to be determined!

Estonians Will Go To Ellis Island

SAVANNAH, Ga., Sept. 17.— (UP)—A hardy handful of Estonjans who crossed the Atlantic in a 43-foot sailboat in 59 days will ride in style in a special pullman car in one day to New York—and Ellis island

at the island what to do with the nine women, 13 men and a blond boy of three who landed here yesterday—just ahead of the Atlantic hurricane stirring this area—without visas.

Miami News (Miami, FL) September 18, 1947



ESTONIAN REFUGEES Have Note and Velly Allikmaa smile in Saman, Ga., after a two and one-half-month scare from Sweden with 21 other Estonian refugees. They are now awaiting decision of immigration officials as to whether they may remain in the U.S.

Ottawa Citizen (Ottawa, ON) September 23, 1947

23 Estonians, Latvian Taken to Ellis Island

NEW YORK, Sept. 19 (P).—A group of 23 Estonians and one Latvian who braved an Atlantic crossing in a 43-foot sailboat to realize their dream of living in America, were detained at Ellis Island today awaiting a hearing by immigration officials.

The group landed at Savannah, Ga., Tuesday, and their skipper, Ludvig Tosine, cheerfully but apologetically said they had no visasonly a desire and a will to become citizens of the United States. They were brought to Ellis Island yesterday, immigration officials said, because detention facilities were unavailable at Savannah. A spokesman said they would be given a formal hearing on their request for entry into this country.

News Journal (Wilmington, NJ) September 19, 1947

Canadian federal government: "Welcome!"

Canada Will Admit Estonians Who Crossed Ocean in Sailboat

year-old boy, who crossed the stormy Atlantic in a 40-foot sailboat but were refused entry to the United States, will be admitted to Canada soon, Immigration officials announced Tuesday.

Landing at Savannah, Ga., after a hectic two-month battle with Atlantic gales, the 23 were taken to Ellis Island, NY, and later granted temporary entry into the United States, with the understanding they would be permitted to find another country in which to settle.

The Canadian Lutheran World Relief Organization in Winnipeg took up the Estonians' case. In a letter to Canadian Immigration officials, the organization asked consideration "on purely compassionate grounds and to afford them the opportunity of beginning life again in a country built on the democratic principles in which they believe and for which they stand"

Tuesday's announcement that on the recommendation of for the small engine and the

Twenty-three Estonians, in- vision was made for the entry of cluding eight women and a 2½- the 23 persons, providing they could meet the Immigration Act's mental and physical requirements.

> Entry to the United States was refused because the Estonians lacked the necessary immigration visas and because the quota for persons of Estonian birth was over-subscribed by displaced persons in the American zones of Germany and Austria.

> The Estonians included a goldsmith, a draftsman, a bookkeeper, six clerks, a motorman, a carpenter, two electricians, a machinist, a painter, three dressmakers and a housewife.

They set sail aboard the 40-foot sailboat Edith at Goteberg. Sweden, in early Summer by way of Penzance, England, Equipped with 450 gallons of drinking water, the vessels only stored enough food for 30 days. Fierce Atlantic gales forced the little boat of her course and lengthened the trip to two months. There id was not enough money to buy oil Mines Minister Glen, special pro-kipper had to depend on sail.

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Doors open to Canada... with Lutheran Church's assistance

Estonians get haven in Canada

MITCHENER, Ont., Jan. 8 (CP).

— Twenty - four Estonian men, women and children, who last summer crossed the Atlantic in a 43-foot sailboat, only to be refused admission to the United States after their perilous, twomonth voyage, will arrive here Jan. 15, it was announced today.

The little group, held at Ellis Island, New York, since they reached North America, will be sponsored by the Canadian Lutheran world religion committee. A three-storey house is being prepared for them.

Regina Leader-Post (Regina, SK) January 8, 1948

Estonians Given Haven in Canada

Kitchener, Ont., Jan. 7 (AP).—
Twenty-four Estonian men, women and children who crossed the Atlantic last Summer in a 43-foot sailboat only to be refused admission to the U. S., will arrive here Jan. 15 to line, it are ennounced today. The group, long held at Ellis Island, will be sponsored here by the Canadian Lutheran World Religion Committee. A three-story house is being prepared for them.

Daily News (New York, NY) January 8, 1948

News Review (Ridgecrest, CA)
January 1, 1948

Estonians, Barred From U. S., Given Home in Canada

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—(P)—Found, at last—a home for a rugged band of Estonians who crossed the Atlantic in a 43-foot sail boat last summer, but were refused admission to the United States.

Well, it was announced today that the Estonians, 24 men women and children will arrive at Kitchener, Ontario, January 15th to live. The Canadian Lutheran World Religion Committee is sonsoring the Estonians, and a three story house has been prepared for them, members of the committee said that work has been found for most of the adult members of the group.

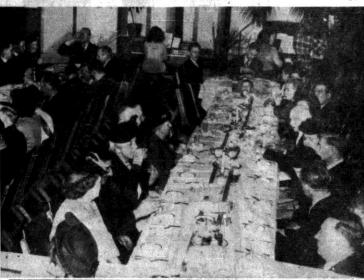
The Estonians were barred from the United States—and long held at New York's Ellis Island—because the American immigration quota for Estonians had been filled. The hardy group was given six months' temporary admission to the United States to enable it to find a home in some other country. Now the group has

found it.

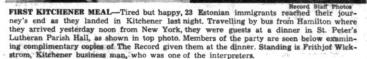
Lutheran Church's welcome to Kitchener

REFUGEES FIND HAVEN IN KITCHENER AFTER LONG OCEAN TRIP











THEIR SAILBOAT—The Edith, 43-foot boat in which the refugees sailed from Estonia, is shown above. Crossing the Atlantic in the small craft took 75 days.



KITCHENER HOME—This is the house at 53 Ontario St., South which the Estonians will occupy. After being barred from the U.S., they were brought to Canada by the National Lutheran Council. They will use half the large duplex.



"Edith" passengers' route to Kitchener

Väljumine:

Göteborg, 2. juulil, 1947. a.

Vahepeatused:

- Knippla saar, Rootsi 4. juulil
- Ostend, Belgia 14. juulil
- Penzance, Inglismaa 22. juulil
- Vigo, Espania 30. juulil
- Madeira saar 6. augustil

Laeval

10,909 km 76 päeva

Maabumine:

Savannah (Georgia), USA – 16. septembril

Dokumentideta kinnipidamis- ja väljasaatmiskeskuses:

Ellis Island (New York) – 18. sept. kuni 15. jaan.

Uus kodupaik:

Kitchener, Kanada – 16. jaanuaril, 1948. a.

Ellis Island ≈ 120 päeva

Rong-, bussil

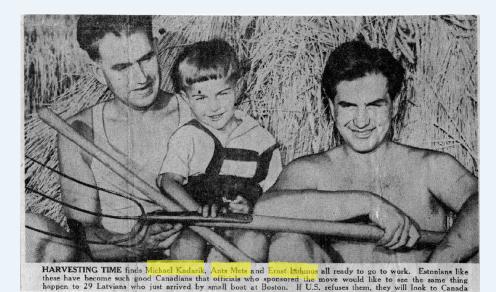
1,950 km 2 päeva

Following the lives of "Edith's" vikings



ESTONIANS IN TORONTO include Olly Rada, whose husband drowned on Atlantic crossing; Paul Reinsoo, who fled from Russians in 1944, crossed Baltic sea in rowboat; Endle Lohmus, whose husband is a goldsmith; and Eduard Aun. 39, bookkeeper and carpenter, who now is working for a Toronto construction firm. Eight of refugees live in city

Toronto Daily Star (Toronto, ON) July 27, 1948



Toronto Daily Star (Toronto, ON) July 27, 1948

Epic Voyage Recalled

Crossed Atlantic Safely, Drowns From Rowboat

old Oswald Kaljulaid, one of the 23 secution in their native land and Estonians who recently crossed the Atlantic to seek freedom in North and freedom in North America. America, was drowned Wednesday They reached the United States night in an attempt to save his but found legal barriers preventing girl companion after their rowboat them from entering that country. upset in the Humber River.

by Bob Whiting and Sidney Rogers. were made for their entry into Can-The party of Estonians, of which ada

TORONTO, (CP)-Twenty-year- | Kaljulaid was a member, fled perrisked a 75-day sea voyage in a small boat in an effort to find peace After they were detained at Ellis The girl, Ollie Korzz, was saved Island six weeks, arrangements

Following the lives of "Edith's" vikings



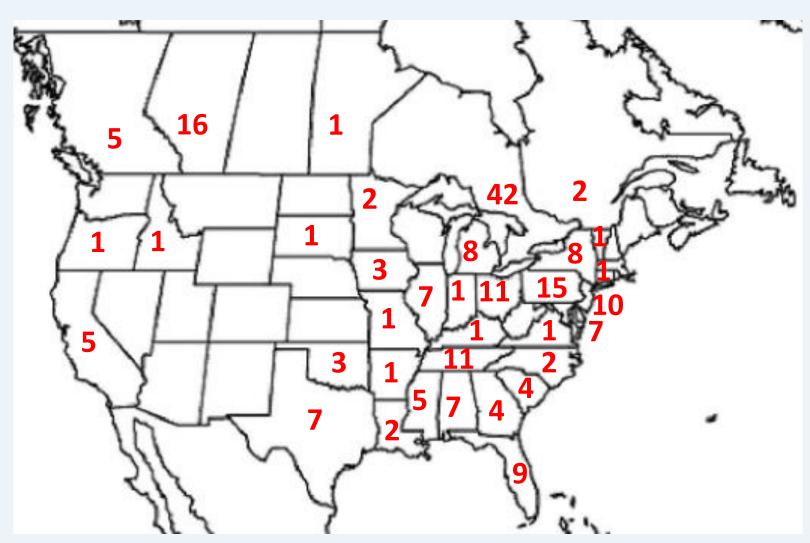
Kitchener-Waterloo Record Kitchener, ON) June ?, 1948

Rev. Paul Eydt Officiates at Wedding of Estonian Refugees-

A happy climax to the adventures of two Estonian refugees was written on Saturday when Ludwig Tosine took as his bride Felixa (Velly) Allikmaa at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Kitchener, Tosine was the captain of the small sail boat which brought 23 refugees to America last year. His bride was one of the passengers whom he met in Sweden just before sailing. The entire group of refugees, with the exception of two who died after arriving in this country, gathered at the church to wish good luck to the happy young couple. A number of them have taken up residence in Toronto during recent months. ficiating at the ceremony was the Rev. Paul Eydt, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Moserville, a member of the Lutheran Relief Committee, through whose efforts the group of refugees was admitted to Canada last January.

Kitchener-Waterloo Record (Kitchener, ON) August 23(?), 1948

Newspaper stories about the "Edith", 1947-1948



"Edith'i" Lol

les, 1947 -1948



EDITH

Her voyage and her Estonian passengers as known to newspaper readers in North America in 1947 - 1948

TÕNU TÕSINE

What did Estonian vikings bring to Canada?



visas and because the persons of Estonian over-subscribed by displ sons in the American

Elukutsetega tööjõudu

The Estonians included a goldsmith, a draftsman, a bookkeeper. six clerks, a motorman, a carpenter, two electricians, a machinist, a painter, three dressmakers and a housewife.

Sweden, in early Summer by was Penzance England Equippe

Elukutsetega tööjõudu

ca, will be sponsorian Lutheran World tee. A three-storey prepared for them.

tööjõudu

Rahvastiku

suurenemist

Officials said work has been lined up for most of the adult members of the group.

Rahvastiku

suurenemist e have come here we have

all the relatives we can.

Elukutsetega Tosine is a painter now and he's planning to bring out his sister and parents from Sweden as soon as he Little Hans is happy or

Preston while his father is are working in Toronto factories one is a great lakes sailor and all are devoted churchgoers.

"We have a 100 per cent. Canadian here," proudly beamed Mr. and Mrs. I. Lemining as they watched their five-weeks-old baby, Vive. Mr. Lemining works in a powe

"Sometimes Canadians wonder why we sacrificed everything to to explain," said Michael

darik, factory worker, and Ernst Lohmus, goldsmith.

Elukutsetega tööjõudu

43

By viking ship to Canada





