

Cossacks, Indians and Buffalo Bill

Chapter Two

1898 Travel from England to America

Jule Keen, Cody's Treasurer, and Salsbury were in London during the winter, securing the European acts for the 1898 season. "The Russian Cossacks were secured by Buffalo Bill after an outlay of much money. It cost \$320 per man to get them from the Russian government and have them carried to London, not including their transportation to America." Keen accompanied the German Cavalrymen, Irish Lancers, and the "Russian Cossacks" to Euston Station, London, for the trip to Liverpool. They arrived at the Lime Street station in Liverpool and were met by the Cunard Line horse-drawn buses to take them the 3/4 of a mile to the pier head. There they found the SS Campania moored at the world's largest floating landing stage, about a half mile long. To reach the ship, Jule and his company of riders crossed from the pier to the landing stage via a covered bridge.

Captain Henry Walker, familiar with the River Mersey's thirty-foot tidal shift, was eager to get underway Saturday. Firemen and Stokers, eighty feet below decks, stood ready to feed one-hundred furnaces the twenty tons of coal an hour necessary to maintain their twenty-two-knots top speed. Porters and Stewards were busy settling passengers into their cabins.

Alexander Tsintsadze, who first traveled to America in 1893 with Dimitri Mgaloblishvili in the Adam Forepaugh show, and was billed as "the man known throughout Russia as the Courier to the Czar and the Demon Cavalier," was now forty years old. Alexander became sick in Odessa and his attending doctor advised him to stay behind. They would send for him after he recovered, but he was completely against it. He boarded the Campania with doctors and nurses attending. Alexander went straight to his second-class cabin and crawled into a bunk.