



WINNIPEG (The), Voyage of Hope

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On August 4th, 1939, the cargo ship "Winnipeg" weighs anchor at the port of Trampeloup near Bordeaux. Destination: Chili. Nearly 2000 passengers are crammed together on board - men, women and children, Spanish refugees trying to escape from a murderous civil war that has claimed nearly one million victims. On the quayside, a man doffs his hat: Pablo Neruda, an as yet unknown Chilean poet who organised the trip.
With the help of archive material and eyewitnesses - passengers and crewmembers alike - the film follows the traces of this memorable crossing from Bordeaux to Valparaiso during the summer of 1939. Supported by a then democratic Chilean government, this voyage symbolised the last hope that was to lead those who had fought for their beliefs to a better life. On September 3rd, at dawn, the "Winnipeg" enters Valparaiso harbour while the newspapers announce the latest events: the Second World War has just been declared.

Categorie(s): Travel, Sport & Adventure, Collections - Series

Tag(s): History, Travel

Producer(s): AU LARGE DE L'EDEN

Length: 1x52 / Format: One-off

Original version: French

Versions available: French

Nationality: France, 2000

Rights:

Support(s): SD - Beta SP

<http://www.pointdujour-international.com/catalogueFiche.php?idFiche=19292&lang=en>