

KENNEDY ARRIVAL IS JOYOUS FOR 148

300 Greet El Al Passengers With Tears and Laughter

With tears, kisses and laughter, with spontaneous singing and dancing, 148 passengers sped through customs at Kennedy Airport this morning, 18 hours and 15 minutes after they were pitched into anxiety by two terrorists who tried to seize their plane, an El Al jetliner, on route here from Tel Aviv.

It was 2:30 A.M. when the first of the passengers stepped into the lobby of the International Arrivals Building to the cheers and applause of some 300 people. Most of the well-comers were friends and family of the travelers, but there were others who said they knew no one aboard Flight 219, one of four United States-bound planes hijacked Sunday and the only one to escape.

Phil Horn, a 32-year-old social worker from Teaneck, N. J., was one of those, and two friends were heading home in their car they heard on the radio that the plane was landing. Hurriedly painting signs saying "Shalom" and "the People of Israel Live," they went to Kennedy. "We came to bear witness," said Mr. Horn "and to say 'Well done' to those that lived through these harrowing experiences."

A Feeling of Pride

Ralph Alnelah, a 17-year-old student at Forest Hills High School, said: "All day long, I've felt very proud. I mean, I'm Jewish, and well, I felt, here's a people, we dealt with them."

One of the passengers, Mrs. Max Schenk, president of Hadassah, told how the hijackers boarded in Amsterdam and were seated next to her.

"The man was reading The London Times and I was reading The Observer and I thought I would ask him to switch when we finished, but I never got a chance," she recalled.

"Suddenly," she went on, "after no words at all were said by the couple, he rose and shouted, a scream, a bellow, an animal sound that I will probably always remember and hear in my dreams. He had a small silver pistol and walked up toward the cockpit with the

girl behind."

Alfred Khazzam, who was sitting behind Mrs. Schenk and who speaks Arabic, remembers that before the man screamed he said one word to his accomplice — "Yallah!" Arabic for "Come on!"

Within the next minute or two, all passengers agree, three soft pops sounded. There was scuffling in the first-class compartment and the plane went into a sharp dive.

The man with the gun was shot and subdued by security agents. Shlomo Vider, a steward, was wounded. The woman was felled by some passengers and her ankles and hands were bound.

Mrs. Schenk noticed the young woman's purse on the seat. "I thought maybe there were explosives in it, so I looked," she said. "All I saw was a Honduran passport. Then we heard we would be going to London."





