

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

THE COMMONWEALTH TOUR, 1952

The s.s. GOTHIC will leave Southampton for Mombasa on January 12th.

The ship has been refitted and converted for the Commonwealth Tour in Messrs. Cammell Laird's Birkenhead Yard under the direction of the Admiralty, working in conjunction with the owners, The Shaw Savill Line. The conversion was originally planned for Their Majesties The King and The Queen and Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, and later slightly modified for Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. The ship was completed on December 15th, 1951, and trials took place during the passage from Liverpool to Southampton on December 19th and 20th.

After embarking stores and equipment the ship carried out a shake-down cruise and returned to Southampton to make final preparations before sailing for Mombasa, where Their Royal Highnesses will embark on February 7th.

Personal accommodation for Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh has been arranged on the Boat Deck aft, cabins and bathrooms having been altered for this purpose. On the same deck forward the Children's Room has been converted to provide work rooms for the staff accompanying Their Royal Highnesses. The superstructure at the forward end of the Boat Deck has been extended to provide accommodation for additional radio and naval communication equipment, offices and cabins for additional radio officers.

On the Promenade Deck aft, immediately below Their Royal Highnesses' cabins, the existing Smoke Room has been sub-divided to provide for Princess Elizabeth's Day Cabin starboard, the Duke of Edinburgh's Day Cabin port and a centre vestibule with a cloak room and a pantry. The existing Verandah Cafe, immediately abaft the Day Cabins, is being used as a verandah for Their Royal Highnesses. Accommodation for the members of the Household has been provided in cabins on the Promenade Deck adjacent to the Royal Day Cabins. A small Sitting Room for the Ladies-in-Waiting and a Smoking Room for the Gentlemen of the Household have also been provided on this deck.

The Flag Officer, Royal Yacht (Vice-Admiral C.E. Lambe, C.B., C.V.O.), who first flew his flag in the ship during the shake-down cruise, has been accommodated in an existing suite starboard side forward.

The members of the Royal Staff together with the Press, BBC and the R.N. Officers are to be accommodated in existing cabins on the Boat Deck and on the Promenade Deck.

On the Bridge Deck, the existing Dining Saloon has been sub-divided and now consists of the Royal Dining Cabin on the starboard side and a mess for the Royal Staff, Ship's Officers, Press and the BBC on the port side. The existing Lounge has similarly been sub-divided.

A portable cinema will be provided for the Royal Ante-Room.

For the use of the Royal Staff, Ship's Officers, Press and the BBC a Smoking Room and a Reading Room have been provided on the Shelter Deck port side immediately below their mess.

/Royal Navy

Royal Naval personnel for operating naval communications and manning the barges and Royal Marine personnel, including the band of the Portsmouth Group, Royal Marines (also known as the Royal Yacht Band), embarked to take part in ceremonial occasions, will be accommodated in their own messes on the starboard side of the Shelter Deck.

Additional Merchant Navy crew will be embarked for the tour and have been provided with accommodation on the upper deck aft.

Air-conditioning has been fitted in the **Royal** Cabins, the Royal Dining Cabin and Ante-Room, and in the Reading Room and Smoke Room.

The 40 ft. Royal Barge, ex. VICTORIA AND ALBERT, which was used to convey King Haakon of Norway up the River Thames during his visit to this country last summer, and the 35 ft. Staff Barge are stowed in the after well. Arrangements for hoisting and lowering these barges are by means of the ship's derricks.

Two accommodation ladders, one port and one starboard, have been provided in the after well for the use of the Royal Party.

A high-powered wireless transmitter has been fitted on the Shelter Deck aft. This transmitter will be operated by R.N. personnel and will also be used for B.B.C. broadcasts. A B.B.C. recording space has also been provided.

A telephone exchange, with shore connections for use in harbour, has been provided. Provision has also been made for Radio telephony.

A laundry complete with washing machine, hydro extractor, drying tumbler and presses has been provided.

Arrangements have been made for the transference of mail bags, etc. at sea in accordance with normal naval practice.

The fresh water storage capacity has been increased and an additional distiller fitted.

The appearance of the ship has been slightly altered by the extension of the funnel, which has been raised seven feet, the erection of a saluting platform above the wheel house and the additional structure for the communication offices on the Boat Deck.

With the exception of a green boot topping at the waterline, the hull and the superstructure of the ship has been painted white with the colour of the Shaw Savill Line on the funnel.

It has been approved that cargo should be carried on the outward and homeward voyages, the chartering of which has been arranged by the Ministry of Transport.

To make use of vacant cabins while the Royal Party are not on board, some fare paying passengers will be carried in GOTHIC from England to the Cape and Mombasa.

8th January, 1952.

## ROYAL SHIP "GOTHIC"

The "GOTHIC", one of four of the "IC" class first-class passenger and cargo liners for the post-war fleet of the Shaw Savill Line was launched at the Wallsend-on-Tyne Yard of Swan, Hunter, and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., on the 12th December, 1947. She sailed from Liverpool on her maiden voyage in December, 1948. Of nearly 16,000 gross tons and a normal service speed of 17 knots, she serves both the Passenger and Cargo traffic between Britain, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand and is used as circumstances may necessitate on any of the routes to those Dominions now served by the Shaw Savill Line - via Panama, via Cape and via Suez Canal.

The vessel was designed for the Australian and New Zealand refrigerated cargo trades and with over 529,000 cubic feet of refrigerated space is able to bring home from the Dominions each voyage 7,000 tons of meat, dairy produce and fruit, in addition to some 2/3,000 tons of wool and other general merchandise; from Britain she has a capacity for general cargo of over 12,000 tons. On this voyage the vessel will be carrying a mixed cargo of motor cars, refrigerators, washing machines, lubricating oil, window glass and soda ash, which will be discharged at Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. She will load a full cargo homewards from New Zealand.

The propelling machinery is a three turbine arrangement, single reduction on L.P. and double reduction on H.P. and I.P., driving twin screws, and the boilers are two Foster Wheelers, oil firing on "Wallsend-Howden patent pressure system". The most modern types of navigation aids and cargo handling gear are fitted.

On a normal voyage the "GOTHIC" carries a maximum of 85 First-class Passengers only, and provides the type of accommodation which is sought by discriminating travellers who desire the maximum of comfort without crowding. Of the 53 cabins, 23 have private bathrooms and 38 are single rooms.

THE ROYAL SHIP DUE AT SOUTHAMPTON

The s.s. GOTHIC, in which ship Their Royal Highnesses The Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh are to proceed to Australia and New Zealand during their Commonwealth Tour, is due at Southampton tomorrow (December 20th) from the Mersey.

The ship has been refitted and converted for the tour in Messrs. Cammell Laird's Birkenhead Yard under the direction of the Admiralty, working in conjunction with the owners, The Shaw Savill Line. During passage to Southampton acceptance trials have taken place.

After embarking stores and equipment the ship will, early in the New Year, have a final shakedown trip to sea, returning to Southampton on January 5th to make final preparations before sailing on January 12th for Mombasa, where Their Royal Highnesses will embark.

During the refit, accommodation for Princess Elizabeth and Duke of Edinburgh has been made ready on the Boat Deck aft. On the same deck, for'ard, the superstructure has been extended to provide office accommodation for additional radio equipment and communications staff.

On the Promenade Deck, immediately below, Day Accommodation has been made available for the Royal travellers by the conversion of the Smoking Room. Accommodation is also provided on this Deck for the Ladies-in-Waiting and for the Flag Officer Royal Yacht (Vice-Admiral C.E. Lanbe, C.B., C.V.O.), who will first fly his flag in the ship during the shakedown cruise.

On the Bridge Deck, part of the existing Dining Saloon has been converted for the use of the Royal Party, and on the next deck, known as the Shelter Deck, the 40 ft. Royal Barge will be housed in the Well. The Smoking Room and Reading Room will be available on this deck for the use of junior members of the Royal Party, Press and B.B.C. representatives.

Royal Naval and Royal Marine personnel, including the band of the Portsmouth Group (also known as the Royal Yacht Band) Royal Marines, embarked to take part in ceremonial occasions, will be accommodated in their own messes on the Shelter Deck.

The appearance of the ship has been slightly altered by the extension of her funnel, which has been raised seven feet, and by the erection of a saluting platform over the wheelhouse, and the additional communications offices on the Boat Deck.

With the exception of a green band near the water line, the hull and superstructure of the ship has been painted white with the colour of the Shaw Savill Line on her funnel.

December 19th, 1951.

NOTE TO EDITORS AND PICTURE EDITORS

A Press facility to visit s.s. GOTHIC at Southampton is being arranged for Monday, January 7th, 1952, from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The owners, the Shaw Savill Line will provide buffet refreshments on board.

In order that the Company may be furnished with names and particulars of Press representatives visiting the ship, applications in writing giving these particulars should be made before Monday, December 31st, to Chief of Naval Information, Admiralty, Whitehall, S.W.1.

Passes will be issued to Press representatives at the Manager's Office, Comard Line, near the entrance to Southampton Docks, on their way to the ship on January 7th.

Admiralty, S.W.1.

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THE COMMONWEALTH TOUR, 1953 - 54

The Shaw Savill liner GOTHIC (Captain David Aitchison) on charter to the Admiralty, will leave London for Jamaica on 10th November, 1953.

NAVAL PERSONNEL EMBARKED:

As Flag Officer Royal Yachts, Vice-Admiral E.M.C. Abel Smith, C.B., C.V.O. will be flying his flag in the GOTHIC during the Tour. His Staff Officer is Commander C.D. Madden, D.S.C. and Bar, R.N. and his Staff Communications Officer is Commander R.R.B. Mackenzie, M.B.E., R.N. The Medical Officer in attendance on Her Majesty the Queen is Surgeon Commander D.D. Steele-Perkins, F.R.A.C.S., D.L.O., R.N. The Director of Music is Major F.V. Dunn, M.V.O., F.R.A.M., R.M. The Royal Cypher Staff consists of Lieutenant-Commander N.E.F. Dalrymple-Hamilton, D.S.C., R.N., Second Officer J.P.L. Bevan, W.R.N.S., Third Officer E.D. Wilson, W.R.N.S. and Third Officer S.M. Rigby, W.R.N.S.

There are 15 Naval ratings embarked for communications duties; the Royal Marine Band numbers 30, and included among the 16 other ratings engaged on various services are 9 ratings who will man the Royal Barges.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

In 1951, the ship was converted in Messrs. Cammell Lairds' Birkenhead Yard for the Royal Commonwealth Tour to be undertaken by Their Majesties The King and The Queen and Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret. Slight modifications were subsequently made when it was decided that because of the poor state of The King's health, this tour would be undertaken by Their Royal Highnesses The Princess Elizabeth and The Duke of Edinburgh.

S.S. GOTHIC sailed for the Tour and arrived at Mombasa, where Their Royal Highnesses were to embark on February 7th, 1952. Before this event, however, the Tour was cancelled in consequence of the death of His Majesty King George VI, and the GOTHIC proceeded on a routine voyage to New Zealand and Australia to discharge the cargo she was carrying for these countries.

On her return to the United Kingdom, the GOTHIC was partly re-converted to enable her to continue her normal trade. As it was probable that the Royal Commonwealth Tour would take place at a later date, however, the Royal Apartments were not included in this re-conversion except for the removal of furniture and furnishings.

Under the direction of the Admiralty, Messrs. Cammell Laird have now prepared the ship for the forthcoming Royal Commonwealth Tour. She has completed trials, and after a "shake down" voyage from Liverpool, arrived in London on the 29th October to embark cargo and to complete arrangements. Except for a few points of detail she is now precisely as she was when she sailed for the cancelled tour, the original furniture and furnishings having been re-installed.

The personal accommodation for Her Majesty and The Duke of Edinburgh is on the Boat Deck aft, the original cabins and bathrooms having been altered for this purpose. On the same deck forward, the space formerly used as a Children's Room is now occupied by work rooms for the staff accompanying Her Majesty and His Royal Highness. The extension to the superstructure on this deck, carried out prior to the previous tour, provides space for additional radio and naval communication equipment, offices and cabins.

/On....

On the Promenade Deck aft, immediately below the Royal Sleeping Cabins, the former Smoking Room is sub-divided to provide for Her Majesty's Day Cabin starboard, The Duke of Edinburgh's Day Cabin port, and a centre vestibule with a cloak room and pantry.

In the lobby forward of the vestibule is an illuminated map display which has been presented to Her Majesty. On this display the route of the Tour is traced in light and by an arrangement of switches the position of the ship on any day can be shown.

The existing Verandah Cafe, immediately abaft the Day Cabins, will be used as a verandah by Her Majesty and The Duke of Edinburgh. A small sitting room for the ladies-in-waiting and a smoking room for the gentlemen of the Household are also provided on this deck.

The members of the Royal Staff, the Press, B.B.C. and the Naval Officers are to be accommodated in existing cabins on the Boat Deck and on the Promenade Deck.

On the Saloon Deck, the existing Dining Saloon has been sub-divided and now consists of the Royal Dining Cabin on the starboard side and a mess for the Royal Staff, Ship's Officers, Press and the B.B.C. on the port side. The existing Lounge has similarly been sub-divided.

A portable cinema will be provided for the Royal Ante-Room.

For the use of the Royal Staff, Naval Staff and ship's Officers, Press and the B.B.C. a Smoking Room and a Reading Room have been provided on the Shelter Deck port side immediately below their mess.

Royal Naval ratings will be accommodated in their own messes on the starboard side of the Shelter Deck.

Additional Merchant Navy crew will be embarked for the Tour and have been provided with accommodation on the upper deck aft.

Air-conditioning has been fitted in the Royal Cabins, the Royal Dining Cabin and Ante-Room, and in the Reading Room and Smoking Room.

The 45 ft. Royal Barge which was used by the late King George VI during his tour to South Africa in 1947, and later by Their Royal Highnesses The Princess Elizabeth and The Duke of Edinburgh during their visit to the Channel Islands in 1949, will be embarked. This barge, together with a 35 ft. Admiral's Barge, will be stowed in the After Well, and the ship's derricks will be used for hoisting and lowering them.

Two accommodation ladders, one port and one starboard, have been provided in the After Well for the use of the Royal Party.

A high-powered wireless transmitter has been fitted on the Shelter Deck aft. This transmitter will be operated by R.N. personnel and will also be used for B.B.C. broadcasts. A B.B.C. recording space has also been provided. A radio picture transmitting apparatus has been installed for the use of the press, the Newspaper Proprietors' Association having agreed to meet the cost of this installation.

A telephone exchange, with shore connections for use in harbour, has been provided. Provision has also been made for Radio telephony.

A laundry complete with washing machine, hydro extractor, drying tumbler and presses has been provided.

/Arrangements...

Arrangements have been made for the transference of personnel, mail bags, etc. at sea in accordance with normal naval practice.

The fresh water storage capacity has been increased and an additional distiller fitted.

With the exception of a green boot topping at the waterline, the hull and the superstructure of the ship have been painted white with the colour of the Shaw Savill Line on the funnel (buff with black top).

It has been approved that cargo should be carried on the outward and homeward voyages, the chartering of which has been arranged by the Ministry of Transport.

To make use of vacant cabins while the Royal Party are not on board, some fare paying passengers will be carried in the GOTHIC from England to Jamaica.

#### BIOGRAPHIES OF NAVAL PERSONNEL:

##### VICE-ADMIRAL E.M.C. ABEL SMITH, C.B., C.V.O.

Vice-Admiral Edward Michael Conolly Abel Smith was born in December, 1899 and he entered the Royal Navy in 1912. Prior to his taking up his appointment as Flag Officer Royal Yachts he was Vice Controller (Air) and Chief of Naval Air Equipment, which appointment he took up in February, 1950.

In World War I Admiral Abel Smith served as a Midshipman in H.M.S. PRINCESS ROYAL. He is a qualified air pilot and much of his service has been in aircraft carriers.

When World War II broke out he was Commander (Flying) in H.M.S. COURAGEOUS. Later in October, 1939 he was appointed to the command of a Fleet Air Arm Fighter School, and the following year he was promoted Captain. In 1943 he commanded the aircraft carrier BITER, which played an important part in Atlantic anti-submarine operations, and in the "Torch" operations where he was Mentioned in Despatches.

In 1944 Admiral Abel Smith became Naval and Naval Air Attache at the British Embassy, Washington. Later he served as Flag Captain and Chief Staff Officer to the Flag Officer (Air) and Second-in-Command, Mediterranean Station. During that appointment he commanded H.M.S. TRIUMPH.

He is married and has one son and one daughter; he lives near Galashiels, Selkirkshire.

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##### COMMANDER C.D. MADDEN, D.S.C. AND BAR, ROYAL NAVY

While his father was serving as Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bilbao, Commander Colin Duncan Madden was born in Spain in 1915. He joined the Royal Navy as a Dartmouth Cadet in 1929.

In 1940 as a Lieutenant he took part in the evacuation and blocking of Ijmuiden Harbour and was responsible for the sinking of a 10,000 ton liner across the entrance. This ship remained there throughout the war, and for this service he was awarded the D.S.C.

On specialising in navigation, he served for a year in minesweepers and then became Navigating Officer of H.M.S. ARETHUSA, in the Home Fleet.

/He....

He was Squadron Navigating Officer in the force engaged on the Lofoten Raid, for which service he was Mentioned in Despatches. He was in H.M.S. ARETHUSA when she was badly damaged by a torpedo in the Eastern Mediterranean.

As a Staff Officer Operations and Squadron Navigating Officer of an Assault Group in the invasion of Normandy he was sunk in H.M.S. LAWFORD by a rocket from an enemy fighter. After this he became Navigating Officer in H.M.S. NORFOLK and was engaged in attacks off the Norwegian Coast, for which he was awarded a Bar to his D.S.C.

He became Captain of H.M.S. CROSSBOW, a Home Fleet destroyer, in 1952.

He is married, has two daughters and lives near Petersfield (Hants).

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COMMANDER R.R.B. MACKENZIE, M.B.E., R.N.

Commander Robert Ronald Beveridge Mackenzie was born in 1920 and he joined the Royal Navy in 1938 as a Special Entry Cadet from Marlborough College.

After training in H.M.S. EREBUS and H.M.S. VINDICTIVE he served in H.M.S. HOOD, leaving that ship ten days before she was sunk. He saw service on the Far Eastern Station in H.M.S. QUALITY, where he was awarded the M.B.E.

He specialised in communications in 1944, and in 1950 he was appointed to H.M.S. IMPLACABLE as Flag Lieutenant to the Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet and remained in that appointment when the Flag was transferred to H.M.S. VANGUARD. More recently he has served on the Staff of the Flag Officer Scotland.

He is married, has two children, and his home is near Winchester (Hants).

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SURGEON COMMANDER D.D. STEELE-PERKINS, F.R.A.C.S.,  
D.L.O., R.N.

Surgeon Commander Derek Duncombe Steele-Perkins was born in 1908 and he entered the Royal Navy in 1933.

At the end of World War II he was serving in Australia at the Royal Naval Auxiliary Hospital, Sydney, as ear, nose and throat specialist. He was specialist in surgery at the Royal Naval Hospital, Malta in 1947, and held an appointment at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, prior to his appointment to the Staff of the Flag Officer Royal Yachts in November, 1951.

He is married and lives in Poole (Dorset).

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/MAJOR....

MAJOR FRANCIS VIVIAN DUNN, M.V.O., F.R.A.M.  
ROYAL MARINES

Born in 1908 Major Dunn became an Assistant Director of Music Royal Marines with the rank of Lieutenant in 1931. In that year he was appointed Director of Music, Royal Marines, Portsmouth. At this time he was only 23, the youngest age for such an appointment. He is now Director of Music, Royal Marines at the R.M. School of Music, Deal.

He studied at the Royal Academy of Music and was a pupil of Sir Henry Wood. As a violinist he was one of the original members of the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra when it was formed in 1930.

He has served as Director of Music to the Royal Yachts in four reigns.

Major Dunn was appointed M.V.O. 5th Class in 1938 and promoted to the 4th Class after he had served in H.M.S. VANGUARD during the Royal Tour to South Africa in 1947.

He is married and lives at Deal (Kent).

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LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER N.E.F. DALRYMPLE-HAMILTON, D.S.C., R.N.

Born in 1922 Lieutenant-Commander Dalrymple-Hamilton entered the Royal Navy as a Special Entry in January, 1940. He was awarded the D.S.C. in 1944 for his services in H.M.S. FAULKNER engaged in running supplies to the Aegean Islands of Cos and Leros.

In 1946 he was appointed Flag Communications Officer on the Staff of the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, and in 1951 he joined the Third Training Flotilla to assist in communications training. In May, 1952 he was appointed to H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM.

He is married and has one son; he lives in Cairnryan, Wigtownshire.

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SECOND OFFICER J.L.P. BEVAN, W.R.N.S.

Second Officer Bevan joined the W.R.N.S. as a rating in 1940 and was promoted to Third Officer for cypher duties in 1943. During World War II she served in Hong Kong and Australia and was promoted to Second Officer in 1946. After completing a signals course in 1948 she served for two years in the Canal Zone. Since 1951 she has been on the Staff of The Royal Naval Signal School.

Her home town is Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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THIRD OFFICER E.D. WILSON, W.R.N.S.

Third Officer Wilson entered the W.R.N.S. as a Telegraphist in 1948 and was appointed to a Royal Naval Air Station. She was promoted to Third Officer in 1950 and for 14 months served in a Naval Training Establishment and in a Royal Naval Air Station as Junior Administrative Officer. After completing a signals course in 1952 she served on the Staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.

Her home is at Whitby (Yorks).

/THIRD....

THIRD OFFICER S.M. RIGBY, W.R.N.S.

Third Officer Rigby entered the W.R.N.S. as a Telegraphist in 1951 and was appointed to a Royal Naval Air Station. In 1952 she was promoted to Third Officer and completed a signals course during the following year. For three months she has been serving at the Royal Naval Signal School.

Third Officer Rigby is a keen shot and has been a member of the W.R.N.S. Inter-Service Rifle Team.

Her home town is Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

INTENDED ITINERARY:

	<u>ARRIVAL</u> <u>1953</u>	<u>DEPARTURE</u> <u>1953</u>
London		10th November
Jamaica	22nd November	27th November *
Cristobal	29th November *	29th November
Balboa	29th November *	30th November *
Suva	17th December *	19th December *
Tonga	20th December *	20th December *
Auckland	23rd December *	30th December
	<u>1954</u>	<u>1954</u>
Wellington	1st January	26th January
Bluff	28th January	30th January *
Sydney	3rd February *	18th February *
Hobart	20th February *	23rd February
Melbourne	24th February	7th March
Townsville	12th March	12th March *
Cairns	13th March *	13th March *
Cid Harbour	14th March *	15th March *
Mackay	15th March *	15th March
Adelaide	20th March	25th March
Fremantle	29th March	1st April *
Cocos Is.	5th April *	5th April *

/Colombo....

	<u>ARRIVAL</u>		<u>DEPARTURE</u>	
	<u>1954</u>		<u>1954</u>	
Colombo	10th April	*	21st April	*
Aden	27th April	*		

NOTES:

Star indicates that Her Majesty will be on board. The list is based on local time. Her Majesty will leave the GOTHIC at Aden and will return to London from Tobruk in H.M. Yacht BRITANNIA.

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ESCORTS:

27th November - 10th December.

H.M.S. SHEFFIELD (Commodore (2nd Class) K. McN. Campbell-Walter, R.N.) wearing the flag of Vice-Admiral J.F. Stevens, C.B., C.B.E., British Naval Commander-in-Chief, America and West Indies Station, will escort S.S. GOTHIC from Jamaica to the limits of the Station.

10th December - 31st January.

In the New Zealand station, escort duty will be performed by H.M.N.Z.S. BLACK PRINCE (Captain J.F. Whitfeld, D.S.C., R.N.). From 20th to the 23rd this escort will be augmented by three other H.M.N.Z. Ships.

1st February - 15th March.

While Her Majesty is onboard the GOTHIC in Australian waters, escort duty will be shared between H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA (Captain A.R. McNicoll, G.M., R.A.N.) wearing the flag of Rear-Admiral R.R. Dowling, C.B.E., D.S.O., R.A.N., Flag Officer Commanding H.M. Australian Fleet; H.M.A.S. VENGEANCE (Captain H.M. Burrell, R.A.N.); H.M.A.S. ANZAC (Captain J.S. Mesley, D.S.C., R.A.N.) and H.M.A.S. QUADRANT (Captain S.H. BEATTIE, V.C., R.N.). The escort will be augmented by three Australian frigates at the approaches to Sydney. Escorts for the homeward journey will be promulgated later.

Admiralty, S.W.1.  
5th November, 1953.

13/10/53 - No. 14

HANDOUT

PREPARATION OF THE S.S. GOTHIC FOR THE  
ROYAL TOUR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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The S.S. GOTHIC, the Shaw Savill Liner selected to carry the Royal Party for part of Her Majesty's 1953-54 Commonwealth Tour, is now on passage to the Clyde to undergo trials, and will return to Liverpool to start loading cargo on the 21st October. She will sail from Liverpool on the 26th October and, after the carrying out of further trials en route, is expected to arrive in London on the 29th October.

It is intended to sail the S.S. GOTHIC on the 10th November for Kingston, Jamaica, where the Queen is to embark in her.

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NOTICE TO EDITORS AND PICTURE EDITORS:

Arrangements have been made for the S.S. GOTHIC to be open to the Press from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the King George V Dock, No. 5 Shed on Thursday, 5th November. Editors wishing to arrange for representatives, including photographers, to visit the ship should apply for passes to the Department of the Chief of Naval Information, Admiralty, Whitehall, S.W.1. (Telephone: Whitehall 9000, Ext. 1125). Representatives should make their own transport arrangements. Refreshments will not be available in the ship.

Admiralty, S.W.1.

*Names wanted.  
List.  
Check Admiralty  
for families  
, Interiors*

Attach!

15.10.53 - No.9.

NOTE TO EDITORS AND PICTURE EDITORS

With reference to the opportunity previously announced for representatives of the Press to visit the S.S. GOTHIC on Thursday, 5th November, the Directors of the Shaw Savill Line have intimated that they will provide cold luncheon for those press representatives visiting the ship.

The Admiralty particularly requests that the names of representatives selected for this facility should be notified when application for passes is made to the Chief of Naval Information, and that any change in representation be notified before the 31st October, since only those whose names appear on the final list will be allowed on board.

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ADMIRALTY, S.W.1.