

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Ceremonial opening of Waterloo Bridge by
the Lord President of the Council,
the Right Hon. Herbert Morrison, M.P.

Monday, 10th December, 1945.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS.

At Waterloo Bridge.

The Lord President of the Council, accompanied by Mrs. Morrison, will arrive in Lancaster Place shortly before noon, and will be received by the Chairman of the London County Council and Mrs. Robertson. As the Chairman receives the Lord President a fanfare will be played by trumpeters from the London Fire Forces Band, and the Council's banner of arms will be hoisted. A bouquet will be presented to Mrs. Morrison by Lalage Nolans.

The following will be presented to the Lord President of the Council by the Chairman of the Council:-

The Mayor of the City of Westminster.
Representing Peter Lind and Company, Ltd -

Mr. Peter Lind.

Representing Messrs. Rendel, Palmer & Tritton -

Mr. S.M.S. Woodcock.

Resident Engineer -

Mr. H.F.N. Nolans.

Representative workmen -

Mr. E.C. Carter (General foreman).

Mr. J. Rhodes (Leading fitter).

Mr. A. Simmons (Labourer).

The Chairman of the Council will introduce the Lord President of the Council who will make a short speech and conclude by declaring the bridge open before leaving the dais.

A pair of scissors, contained in a box made of wood from piles used for the foundations of the old bridge, will be presented by Mr. Peter Lind to the Lord President of the Council. The Lord President will then cut a tape drawn across the roadway. As soon as the tape is cut a second fanfare will be played.

The Lord President of the Council, accompanied by the Chairman of the Council and others who have been present at the ceremony, will walk across the bridge to signalise the formal opening.

Revised by
Messrs. Rendel
Palmer & Tritton

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE PRESS.

London County Council.

THE NEW WATERLOO BRIDGE - CEREMONIAL OPENING.

At 12 noon on Monday next, 10th December, the Right Hon. Herbert Morrison, M.P., Lord President of the Council, will perform the ceremonial opening of the new Waterloo Bridge.

It is fitting that he should do so as it was Mr. Morrison who, as Leader of the London County Council (predecessor to Lord Latham, the present Leader of the Council), on 20th June, 1934, lifted the first stone in the demolition of the old Bridge following the final decision of the Council on 12th June, 1934, to build a new Bridge.

The opening ceremony will take place at the northern (Strand) end of Waterloo Bridge (Lancaster Place). Mr. Morrison will, on arrival, be received by the Chairman of the London County Council (Mr. Charles Robertson), who will be accompanied by Mrs. Robertson, the Vice-Chairman of the Council (Mrs. E.M. Newman), the Deputy Chairman of the Council (Mr. F.W. Dean), and the Leader of the Council (Lord Latham). After making a short speech, Mr. Morrison will cut the ribbon across the Bridge and the company will then cross the Bridge to the South Bank.

The Bridge will be closed to traffic between 11.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.

Following the temporary closure of the old Bridge in May, 1924, owing to the deterioration in its condition, the construction of a temporary bridge was put in hand. The temporary bridge came into use in August, 1925, and shared cross-river traffic with the old Bridge until this was closed for demolition, which was completed by June, 1937.

Work on the construction of the new Bridge was begun on 18th October, 1937, and the foundation stone was laid on 4th May, 1939. A copper cylinder containing a set of daily papers issued at the time of the Council's Jubilee that year and a set of current coins and postage stamps was placed in the foundations.

It was expected that traffic would be able to use the new Bridge within 2½ years of the work starting, but war conditions and the shortage of labour and materials caused delays and it was not until 11th August, 1942, that the Bridge came into partial use for two lines of traffic. Pedestrians were able to use the new Bridge from 21st December, 1942, and on 21st November, 1944, the Bridge was made available up to its full width for six lines of traffic as compared with three lines on the old Bridge.

During the War the Bridge had over 20 air-raid incidents which caused damage to permanent work and to the temporary bridge and destroyed some of the contractors' plant and material. The worst incident occurred at the north end when a large H.E. bomb penetrated the north cantilever and exploded over the tramway subway.

Incorporated in the new Bridge is a memorial to Rennie (the engineer of the old Bridge) consisting of columns and balustrading from the old Bridge which have been re-erected at the south abutment.

The present temporary handrails and lamp standards will be replaced, when conditions permit, by new ones in keeping with the structure. The four stone blocks at the ends of the Bridge are intended for appropriate sculptured figure groups.

P.T.O.

The girders of the temporary bridge (which was removed after the new Bridge came into partial use) are now spanning rivers in Holland.

The engineers responsible for the design and construction of the new Bridge were Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and Tritton, in association with the Council's Chief Engineer (Sir Peirson Frank). The collaborating Architect was Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. The contractors for the new Bridge were Peter Lind and Co., Ltd. The contract price was nearly £648,000, but the total cost of the whole project of demolition and rebuilding, including the temporary bridge, was about £1½ million.

A descriptive brochure is enclosed together with a ticket of admittance to the reserved enclosure in Lancaster Place for the ceremony on 10th December.

ERIC SALMON,

Clerk of the Council.

The County Hall,
Westminster Bridge, S.E.1.
5th December, 1945.

All Waterloo Bridge Open On Monday

"STAR" REPORTER

WATERLOO BRIDGE—all of it
—is being officially opened
on Monday.

Since August, 1942, only two of its six lines of traffic have been used. It cost £1,500,000 and has a 58ft. carriage-way.

As originally planned, this ceremony should have taken place some time in 1940. But the war intervened and the new bridge bears its scars.

It was damaged in more than 20 air raids. In one case a large H.E. bomb fell right through the cantilever at the Embankment end and wrecked the tram shelter there. On another occasion the builders' plant was damaged.

People can still see some of the old structure, originally opened as a toll bridge and named after the victory of Waterloo. This was left intentionally as a memorial to the great engineer Rennie, who built the old bridge.

Monday's opening ceremony is being carried out by Mr. Herbert Morrison, who was leader of the LCC when work was started on the new bridge.

During the ceremony it will be closed for half an hour between 11.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.

One or two jobs have yet to be finished. The temporary handrails and lamp standards are to be replaced and in the course of time four sculptured figures will stand on the four blocks at the ends.

The ceremony will consist of cutting a tape across the bridge, after which there will be a luncheon.

6/12/45.

D. J. P.