

## QUEEN ELIZABETH REFLOATED

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The world's biggest liner is safely off the Brambles shingle bank at the entrance to Southampton Harbour. She went aground at the worst possible time, during the <sup>many</sup> neap tides, and local seamen doubted if the great vessel would be refloated for some days. All available tugs rushed to the scene but the ship resisted all efforts to get her off. <sup>9</sup> In the morning ~~there~~ there was no better luck. The bow was well up on the shingle, the ~~bow~~ <sup>hull showing</sup> ~~topping four feet above~~ <sup>4 ft. bow-topping above</sup> the water, even at high tide.

Between tides the fuel oil was pumped out to lighten ship. It was fortunate that the weather was calm. While waiting for high water more tugs were summoned from Portsmouth, ready for an all-out attempt to get her off on the night tide. Arrangements were made for more than six-hundred of the first class passengers to be taken ashore. Luggage was removed first. It would have been a serious matter for Atlantic travel had the Queen Elizabeth not been refloated that night. Her sister ship, the Queen Mary, is at Southampton being re-fitted after war-service as a troop ship.

All day people watched from shore, speculating as to the chances of getting her off that night. To the great relief of everybody the Queen Elizabeth was refloated and a ~~potentially dangerous~~ potential danger averted.