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Upon Canopus focused the eyes of thousands at Heath Row and the attention of millions throughout the country. It was the dramatic moment for the departure of Her Majesty upon the first tour of the Commonwealth since she ascended the Throne. The last family farewells would be said aboard the aircraft, ~~itself~~. It was ^{nearly nine, and} ~~in the evening~~. By the marvels of modern travel the Queen and the Duke would be across the Atlantic in ten hours. Sir Miles Thomas, Chairman of B.O.A.C., escorted the Royal party ~~into~~ into Canopus. Her Majesty seemed in the best of spirits.

~~Her Majesty's mother and sister left Canopus to watch the take-off from the visitors' lounge.~~

For the Queen Mother, going on board with Princess Margaret, the moment was perhaps tinged with sadness, perhaps with sad memories. Not until next May will the Queen and Duke be home again.

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The goodbyes were over. Her Majesty's Mother and Sister left Canopus, to watch the take-off, ~~from the visitors' lounge~~. For everyone there came now the last glimpses of the Queen. She and the Duke of Edinburgh set out for Australia and New Zealand almost two years ago, but that journey was never accomplished. The Princess Elizabeth of those days is now Queen, filling a role, on this tour only the Sovereign can perform. A great welcome awaits Her Majesty in Australia and New Zealand and other countries of the Commonwealth she will visit. Britain now said goodbye, the great engines of Canopus came to life, the historic tour had begun.