

Leaving Jamaica with very happy memories the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh sailed out to the liner Gothic for the next stage of their journey. So far they had travelled by air; from Kingston they continue by sea; a more leisurely progress and perhaps a welcome change from the rapid journeying up to this point. Now the Queen and her husband met the officers under whose charge they sail.

(2 out)

[It was goodbye to Jamaica. After a short run of about eight hundred miles the royal travellers were greeted by the Governor of the Panama Canal. Her Majesty was now on foreign soil, though no-one from Britain, certainly not the Queen, is allowed to feel a foreigner in Panama, where Americans run the canal and many of the Panamanians speak English. ~~Troops of the Panama Republic formed the guard of honour;~~ <sup>o Panama</sup> the president escorted his visitors through Cristobal.

The Gothic meanwhile was being taken through the Canal - that gravity-defying waterway which was completed, after many setbacks, in 1914. ~~Through~~ By six locks (each one duplicated, making twelve in all) the Canal reaches a summit of 85 feet. Ships take about seven hours to pass from one ocean to the other. At the Miraflores Lock, near the Pacific side, the Queen and Duke worked the controls.

It was now time to go aboard <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ ~~liner~~. Great ships here suffer the indignity of being raised and lowered through locks, towed and manoeuvred by land-bound engines to cross the 50-mile neck of land that holds at bay two oceans and joins the two Americas. Until 39 years ago the only way between Atlantic and Pacific lay by the roaring passage round Cape Horn.

~~When the last lock lay astern~~ <sup>now</sup> the Gothic was within hail of the Pacific Ocean, Her Majesty's next landfall the Fiji Islands.

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