

*MR. Stagg*

The attached background note on the Nigeria Regiment is issued for use in conjunction with the speech to be made by the Queen in Lagos, Nigeria, at 2030 hours G.M.T. tonight (February 15, 1956) when it is expected that Her Majesty will announce that the Regiment is to be called "The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment". This announcement is not intended for publication before delivery at 2030 hours G.M.T.

Background NoteTHE NIGERIA REGIMENT

The Nigeria Regiment consists of five battalions of infantry and is the senior regiment of the Royal West African Frontier Force whose Colonel-in-Chief is Her Majesty the Queen. The whole Regiment comes under the General Officer Commanding Nigeria District, who is also the Commandant of the Nigeria Regiment.

The Regiment, like others in the Royal West African Frontier Force, was raised "to protect lawful commerce, and that all might live in safety". The first force, of 40 soldiers, was formed in Lagos in 1863, being the first of three constabularies, which afterwards were amalgamated to form the Regiment. The first battle honour borne in the Regimental Colours is Ashantee 1873-4, spelt thus because the Regiment was again in service in Ashanti in Sir Garnet Wolseley's expedition in 1900, for which it was awarded the battle honours, Ashanti - 1900. Its first testing abroad came during the 1914-18 war when, soon after the outbreak, it joined an Expeditionary Force which went to the Cameroons, then under German administration. It assisted in the capture of Duala in September, 1914, during which campaign one of its officers, Captain Jack Butler, earned the V.C. Later in the war the Regiment went to East Africa, where the Second Battalion (to whom the Queen presented new Colours during her tour) especially distinguished itself at Nyangao.

At the beginning of the second world war the Regiment was expanded from five to 14 battalions. A brigade of Nigerians led the advance in East Africa from the Juba River to Addis Ababa. Later in the war most of the Regiment went to Burma, where one brigade became part of the Chindits and the remainder were in either the 81st or 82nd West African Divisions. Men of the Nigerian Regiment built the jeep track known as the "West African Way" through the jungle into the Kaladan Valley, enabling the 81st West African Division to concentrate in its forward area on launching an attack on Kyauktaw, which it later captured.

Many Nigerians distinguished themselves in the fighting in Burma. A Japanese soldier wrote in his diary: "The enemy soldiers are not from Britain, but from Africa. Because of their beliefs they are not afraid to die, so, even if their comrades have fallen they keep advancing as if nothing had happened. It makes things rather difficult. They have an excellent physique and are very brave, so fighting against these soldiers is somewhat troublesome."

Today Nigerian officers are already among those leading the Regiment. During the present Royal Tour the Regiment has figured prominently at many official ceremonies. The Second Battalion formed the Guard of Honour for Her Majesty on her arrival in Nigeria at Ikeja Airport, and this Battalion later received new Colours on January 30. Guards of Honour have also been provided on several occasions by the First, Third and Fifth Battalions, the Fourth Battalion took part in a review of representatives from all Provinces in the Northern Region in Kaduna, while the Regimental Band provided music at several functions.

2.47.AM.. ADD: NIGERIA.  
IT IS STILL NOT KNOWN WHAT TIME THE PLANE WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON.

THE QUEENS PLANE IS DELAYED AT TRIPOLI WITH MECHANICAL TROUBLE.

T

3.4.AM.. ADD NIGERIA.

CAPT. R.C. PARKER, OF WINDSOR, WHO HAD JUST TAKEN OVER THE ARGONAUT FROM CAPT. BALLANTINE FOR THE LAST 1.536 MILE STAGE OF THE JOURNEY TO LONDON HAD STARTED THREE MOTORS WHEN THE FOURTH ONE FAILED TO START.

HE IMMEDIATELY CUT THE ENGINES.

AT 3AM NO MESSAGE HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN LONDON TO INDICATE WHETHER THE FAULT HAD BEEN REPAIRED OR WHEN THE AIRCRAFT WAS DUE TO TAKE OFF.

3.7.AM ADD NIGERIA.

IT WAS LEARNED LATER IN LONDON THAT THE FAULT OCCURRED IN THE NO 4 ENGINE (STARBOARD OUTER)--THE SECOND MOTOR TO BE STARTED.

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3.38AM.. ADD: NIGERIA.

THE ARGONAUT CARRYING THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE TOOK OFF FROM IDRIS AT 3.28AM G.M.T. ONE HOUR AND EIGHT MINUTES AFTER SCHEDULE.

THE AIRCRAFT IS NOW EXPECTED AT LONDON AIRPORT AT 11:AM GMT, ONE HOUR LATER THAN EXPECTED.

THE AIRCRAFT WAS AT IDRIS FOR ONE HOUR AND 53 MINUTES.

8 24 AM. .

ROYAL PLANE NEARS HOME.

(3)

THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH WERE BREAKFASTING THREE MILES ABOVE CENTRAL FRANCE THIS MORNING.

WITH LONDON AIRPORT ONLY THREE HOURS AWAY, THE SILVER PAINTED FOUR-ENGINE B.O.A.C. ARGONAUT "ATALANTA" CRUISED AT A STEADY 220 M.P.H. THROUGH THE CLEAR SKY HIGH ABOVE THE CLOUDS.

ITS LATEST RADIOED POSITION RECEIVED AT B.O.A.C.'S MOVEMENT CONTROL CENTRE, WHERE DURING THE NIGHT, HALF HOURLY MESSAGES HAVE BEEN COMING IN, IS MONTE LIMAR.

BECAUSE OF THE MINOR MECHANICAL DEFECT TO A STARTER MOTOR WHICH DELAYED THE ROYAL PLANE AT IDRIS, LIBYA, FOR OVER AN HOUR, "ATALANTA" IS NOW DUE OVER LONDON AIRPORT AT 10.40 AM AND IS DUE TO LAND 20 MINUTES LATER.

SHORTLY AFTER 8 AM LARGE CROWDS WERE ALREADY BEGINNING TO ASSEMBLE IN THE SPECTATOR'S ENCLOSURE ON TOP OF THE QUEEN'S BUILDING IN THE CENTRAL AREA.

THE QUEEN'S PLANE WILL TAXI ALONG THE RUNWAY TO THE TARMAC APRON IN FRONT OF THE GIANT BUILDING WHICH THE QUEEN HERSELF OPENED LAST YEAR.

WHILE THE PREPARATIONS TO GREET THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE WERE GOING AHEAD IN LONDON, THE ROYAL COUPLE WERE SITTING COMFORTABLY IN THEIR PRIVATE LOUNGE ABOARD THE ARGONAUT. NO DOUBT AS THEY STARE THROUGH THE WINDOWS OF THE AIRCRAFT, WHERE OUTSIDE THERE IS 52 DEGREES OF FROST, THEY CAN REFLECT ON THE SUCCESS OF THEIR THREE-WEEK TOUR OF NIGERIA AND LOOK FORWARD TO REUNION WITH THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW HOURS.

COUNTRY	TOWN	EVENT	LIB NO	ISSUE NO	YEAR
AFRICA	NIGERIA	<u>ROYAL TOUR LAST PICTURES.</u> <u>Her Majesty winds up brilliant</u> <u>three-week tour.</u>	24301	2606	16/2/ 56
		SV. Train approaching platform of Ibadan. SLV. PAN. Queen and Duke leaving train and being greeted by Governor. SV. Queen and Duke inspecting soldiers on racecourse. SV. Queen inspecting soldiers. LV. Car arriving at ex- servicemen's rally on racecourse SV. Inspection. CU. Two native ex-service- men. SLV. Duke inspecting ex-servicemen. CU. Ex-servicemen with five medals. LV. Queen and Duke at moor plantation. SV. Ditto. SLV. Queen and Duke walking past camera. LV. Cattle herd. SLV. Royal party looking at cattle. LV. Kano city lined with spectators and horsemen. SCU. Ditto. SLV. Royal cars arriving. SCU. Horsemen with spear. SCU. Royal party into palace. SCU. Dancers. GV. Crowd. LV. Royal cars driving through city. SCU. Three horsemen. CU. Spectator with beard. LV. Royal cars leaving the city. Crowds surged forward as they exit. <u>FADE</u> . CU. Queen smiling as she walks past camera. SV. Queen and Duke waving from gangway of plane.  R. BLUE. TURNER. Length 164ft.			