

2071

s.s. Gothic ready for the Royal Tour

6th November 53

"A liner fit for a Queen", that's the proud role of the s.s. Gothic - seen here loading the last of her cargo at the London Docks - before sailing for Jamaica. There, she'll receive her Royal Passengers - the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh - for the Commonwealth Tour.

To-day, the "Gothic" is spick and span - and converted again - into a Royal Yacht. It will be remembered that the liner was converted for the 1951 Tour - which was cancelled through the tragic death of the late King. On the ship's Communications Staff are three proud W.R.E.N.S... Second-Officer Bevan and Third Officers Wilson and Rigby, ~~and Cipher Clerks~~. And here's the Chief Naval Officer on board, Vice-Admiral ~~Abel~~ Abel-Smith, with the Gothic's Commander - Captain David Aitchison...

Personal State Rooms have been provided for the Royal Travellers - and in the Duke's day cabin is the mahogany desk ~~that~~ used by Queen Victoria.

The Royal Dining Room and Lounge is on the Saloon Deck of the liner ~~that~~ ~~will take the Queen to visit her far-flung peoples of the Commonwealth~~. Up North now - to Scotland - where the Royal Yacht "Britannia" sails down the Clyde to begin her ten-day speed trials. The vessel's first Royal assignment will ~~be~~ be to bring home the Queen - at the end of the <sup>has long</sup> Tour.