

Belfast: Queen launches "Southern Cross"

20th August 54

Belfast: At the famous Harland and Wolff Shipyards - a proud ^{new} ocean liner stands on the stocks waiting to be launched by the Queen.

~~Her Majesty~~, Her Majesty had interrupted her holiday at Balmoral to fly ^{in bad weather} to Northern Ireland - ~~and~~. ^{she} On arrival, was greeted with a bouquet by seventeen year-old John Collins - an apprentice shipwright.

~~... the shipyard workers and their~~
~~... the Queen~~ ^{MOUNTED} ~~to~~ the launching-platform to christen the vessel - wearing an outfit in green and black that matched the ship's

~~... colours~~ ^{SOUND}
The 20,000 ton ^{liner} vessel is of revolutionary design - ^{not unlike that of an} ~~much in the shape of an~~ oil tanker. ^{Intended} ~~...~~ for service in the southern hemisphere - she will carry about twelve hundred passengers - and no cargo...

The Southern Cross will be commanded by Sir David Aitchison - who captained the Gothic - during Her Majesty's ~~...~~ Commonwealth Tour.

~~So Good Luck to this new look liner when she sails the shipping lanes of the world.~~

~~... for the~~

After the launching, the Queen returned by air to Balmoral, where many guests gathered to celebrate a happy occasion - Princess Margaret's 24th anniversary....

And as we share her birthday happiness - it's Congratulations Princess Margaret!!!