

THE ROYAL TOUR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

B.O.A.C. ANNOUNCES CREW FOR FIRST STAGE

CAPTAIN'S APPOINTMENT RECALLS HISTORIC WARTIME FLIGHT

Captain A.C. Loraine, one of B.O.A.C.'s senior and most experienced pilots, will be in command of the B.O.A.C. Stratocruiser in which the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will fly to Bermuda and Jamaica next month at the start of their Commonwealth tour.

The flight will be made in a B.O.A.C. Stratocruiser similar to that in which the Queen (when Princess Elizabeth) and the Duke flew from Britain to Canada in October, 1951. Departure from London Airport will be at 20.45 hours on 23rd November and the route will be via Gander, Newfoundland, where the aircraft will be re-fuelled, to Bermuda, where a night-stop will be made. The arrival at Montego Bay, Jamaica is scheduled for 15.00 hours (G.M.T.) on 25th November.

Captain Loraine, aged 43 and a native of Brighton, has flown a total of 14,300 hours - which makes him a double, and nearly a treble, "mileage millionaire". He began flying in 1928 and joined Imperial Airways in 1932. To date he has flown the Atlantic 164 times. His duties have included some memorable secret V.I.P. missions - he was three times co-pilot of the flying boats in which Sir Winston (then Mr.) Churchill made wartime visits to the United States.

One of the most important flights of his career was in August, 1940 when he flew emissaries of General de Gaulle to Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo. As a result of conferences aboard his flying boat there the whole of French Equatorial Africa declared for de Gaulle.

This flight was made at very short notice. In fact, Captain Loraine and the flying boat "Clyde" were at readiness for a departure from Poole Harbour on a trans-Atlantic run when he received secret instructions for the operation, which was carried out by superb airmanship for it entailed a return journey of some 12,000 ^{from}

miles over a route never previously flown by a flying boat, with little or no ground facilities.

Moreover, because of the need to keep radio silence, Captain Loraine and his crew had no weather reports or radio aids for navigation. Not only was this flight highly important to the Allied cause but it enabled a regular service subsequently to be operated from the United Kingdom to Lagos (West Africa) and on to India and beyond, thus restoring Britain's air links with the East after they had been severed when Italy entered the war and closed the Mediterranean to civil flying.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE ROYAL CREW

CAPTAIN ANTHONY CHRISTOPHER LORAINE

Born 17.5.10 at Brighton.
Educated at Bramdean Preparatory School, Exeter, Downside School and City of London College.
Joined Imperial Airways in 1932 as First Officer. Promoted Senior Captain First Class in May, 1946. Appointed Flight Superintendent B.O.A.C. Stratocruiser and Constellation fleet in 1952.
Total flying time of 14,300 hours.
Atlantic crossings: 164.
Married. Resides at 56, Ovington Street, S.W.3.
Holds Royal Commendation for valuable services in the air.

CAPTAIN RICHARD ALISTAIR CALLANDER

Born 28.4.19 at Ipswich.
Educated at Ipswich School.
Served in R.A.F. 22.9.41 to 1.1.46.
Joined B.O.A.C. 14.6.46 as First Officer. Promoted Junior Captain 1.9.48.
Flying time of 5,396 hours.
Married. Resides at 12, Cornwall Gardens Walk, London, S.W.7.
Wartime decorations: D.S.O. and D.F.C.

FIRST OFFICER JOHN ERIC WILLETT

Born 11.5.23 at Dorking, Surrey.
Educated Redhill and Guildford Technical College.
Served with R.A.F. 29.6.42 until released in 1947.
Joined B.O.A.C. 13.3.47 as Second Officer. Promoted to First Officer 1.3.48.
Flying time of 5,918 hours.
Married. Resides at 30, Gordondale Road, Wimbledon Park, London, S.W.19.

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NAVIGATING OFFICER JOHN DOUGLAS ELLIOTT

Born 18.2.20 at Alton, Hampshire.
Educated Technical College Gosport.
Served with R.A.F. from 1940 to 1946, when he was seconded to B.O.A.C.
Engaged by B.O.A.C. as First Navigating Officer 18.5.46.
Flying time of 4,476 hours.
Obtained First Class Air Navigator's Licence in 1946.
Married. Resides at 32, West Town Park, Brislington, Bristol 4.

RADIO OFFICER CHARLES HARRY PYETT PHILLIPS

Born 19.4.16 at Gosport.
Educated at Fareham and Portsmouth Municipal School.
Joined B.O.A.C. 19.9.39.
Flying time of 7,105 hours.
Obtained First Class Marine Radio Certificate 3.4.34.
Married. Resides at 28, Westbrook Road, Brislington, Bristol 4.

ENGINEER OFFICER ERIC OSWALD DRAPER.

Born 1.5.17 at Woolwich.
Educated at Eltham and Lewisham and Aeronautical College, Chelsea.
Joined Imperial Airways as Ground Engineer 19.4.37.
Flying time of 7,260 hours.
Married. Resides at 4, Reedley Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol 9.
Was Chief Engineer Officer on the flight which the Queen, when Princess Elizabeth, made to Canada in 1951.

ENGINEER OFFICER RALPH SKEPELHORN

Born 27.3.22 at Sunderland.
Educated at Canterbury
Joined B.O.A.C. 11.3.42
Flying time of 5,299 hours.
Married. Resides at Chart House, Woodlands Ride, South Ascot, Berks.

STEWARD RAYMOND LEWIS DUNKLEY

Born 2.11.16.
Served with R.A.F. (Medical Branch) from 1940-1945, when he returned to B.O.A.C. having joined Imperial Airways 19.3.39.
Married. Resides at 52, Wood Lodge Lane, West Wickham, Kent.

STEWARD JOHN JARVIS

Born 21.7.15 at Marylebone, London.
Served in Royal Artillery 1940 to 1946
Joined B.O.A.C. as Steward in April 1946.
Married. Resides at 24, Eton Place, Eton College Road, Hampstead, N.W.3.

STEWARDESS JUANITA ALICE POLANDI

Born 25.12.21.

Educated at Avondale College, Hove.

Joined British South American Airways (now merged with B.O.A.C.)
in August, 1946. Promoted Flight Stewardess July, 1953.

Served in the R.A.M.C. as Nursing Member Class 1, 1942 to 1946.
Single. Resides at 4, Ayr Court, Monks Drive, London, W.3.

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London, W.1.

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22nd October, 1953.

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