

NEWS ITEM

Sent on behalf of

James Booth Aluminium Ltd.

TECHNICAL AND GENERAL
PRESS SERVICE

13 GRAPE STREET LONDON WC2

COVENT GARDEN 0745-6

21/JB

MOVING A 180-TON CASTING

Heaviest Load Ever Carried on British Roads

FLOATING IT ACROSS THE MERSEY

What is believed to be the heaviest load ever carried on British roads is due to leave Sheffield for Liverpool on Tuesday, 4th October. It is the first of two 180-ton mill housings for the new aluminium rolling mill of James Booth Aluminium Ltd., which will be the largest of its type in Western Europe.

The housing, which was cast by English Steel Castings Corporation Ltd. in their Grimsthorpe steel foundry, Sheffield, to the order of The Loewy Engineering Co. Ltd., Bournemouth, is being taken for machining to the Netherton works, Liverpool, of The English Electric Co. Ltd.

The casting, which is over 35 feet long, 15 feet wide and 9 feet high, will be taken on a 24-wheel trailer drawn by two tractors. A third tractor will be used on steep gradients. The total weight of the casting and trailer is approximately 240 tons.

The journey from Sheffield to Liverpool - a distance of about 100 miles - is expected to take three or four days, as a load of this weight and size can be moved only in daylight, and even then is confined mainly to off-peak travelling periods.

More.

Because of weight restrictions on bridges, and the narrowness of certain roads, an indirect route has had to be planned via Birkenhead. One of the major problems is to get the casting from Birkenhead across the Mersey to Liverpool.

The crossing - expected on Friday/Saturday, 7th/8th October - will be on a 200-ton floating crane which is believed to be the largest in the world. The floating crane, with the casting lashed to the deck, will be towed by two tugs across the river from Alfred Dock to Gladstone Dock, Bootle.

The casting will be unloaded from the trailer for the crossing, and the empty vehicle will be driven to Beattie through the Mersey tunnel - for which special permission has been obtained - so that the casting can be re-loaded for the one-hour journey to the English Electric works.

END