

To launch the Shaw Savill liner Southern Cross, Her Majesty the Queen broke her holiday in Scotland, and flew from Aberdeenshire to Belfast. According to the record, this is the first time a ship of the British Merchant Navy has been ~~launched~~ ^{the} launched by a reigning ~~monarch~~ monarch.

Upon arrival, the Queen was presented with a bouquet by John Collins, a seventeen-year-old apprentice. Then, escorted by Sir Frederick Rebbeck, Her Majesty went up to the launching platform to perform the ceremony.

The Southern Cross is an unusual ship; she has been designed to carry passengers only - ~~and cargo~~.

Twenty thousand tons --- with an overall length of six hundred feet. She will make four voyages a year round the world --- linking Great Britain with the Commonwealth Countries of the Southern Hemisphere --- Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

For the Queen, this occasion was a reminder of her great Commonwealth Tour; for the Southern Cross is to be commanded by Sir David Aitchison, captain of the Gothic on that Royal Journey.

And to conclude our royal story --- greetings and good wishes to Princess Margaret, on the celebration of her twenty-fourth birthday.