

Ministry of
**TRANSPORT and
CIVIL AVIATION**

**PRESS
NOTICE**



BERKELEY SQUARE, W.1. MAYFAIR 9494 (PLEASE ASK FOR PRESS OFFICE)

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17th February, 1956

ARRIVAL OF THE QUEEN AT LONDON AIRPORT
17th FEBRUARY, 1956

The B.O.A.C. Argonaut airliner, "Atalanta", bringing home the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh from their Nigerian tour, is due at London Airport Central at 10 a.m. today. On arrival the Atalanta will taxi to Stand 11 of the central marshalling apron from which the Queen departed 21 days ago.

The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, Mr. Harold Watkinson, and the Aerodrome Commandant, Air Marshal Sir John D'Albiac, will then board the aircraft and waiting on the Apron to meet Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be the Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex, Lord Latham, the Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, members of the Cabinet, and the Nigerian Commissioners, who, with other members of the reception party, will have arrived at the Commandant's Suite between 9.45 a.m. and 9.50 a.m.

When Her Majesty appears at the top of the steps leading down from the aircraft the National Anthem will be played by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force. After being greeted by the Prime Minister and other members of the reception party the Queen will take leave of the aircrew.

/Her Majesty

Her Majesty will then inspect the Royal Air Force Guard of Honour which will be drawn up facing the aircraft. At the edge of the apron there will be a group of Nigerian cadets from Sandhurst and officers of the Nigerian Police from the Police College at Ryton-on-Dunsmore.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will leave the airport by car for Buckingham Palace direct from the apron.

The members of the reception party will be:-

Lord Latham	-	Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex
Rt. Hon. Sir Anthony Eden	-	Prime Minister
Rt. Hon. G. Lloyd-George	-	Secretary of State for Home Affairs
Rt. Hon. A. Lennox-Boyd	-	Secretary of State for the Colonies
Hon. M.T. Mbu	-	Commissioner for Federation of Nigeria
Chief M.E.R. Okorodudu	-	Commissioner for Western Region, Nigeria
Mr. T.O.C. Ojiako	-	Commissioner for Eastern Region, Nigeria
Mr. Alhaji Abdulmaliki	-	Commissioner for Northern Region, Nigeria
Hon. M.P.P. Prebensen	-	Norwegian Ambassador (as Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps)
Rt. Hon. The Earl of Scarborough	-	Lord Chamberlain
Sir John Nott-Bower	-	Commissioner, Metropolitan Police.
Sir Terence Nugent	-	Comptroller, Lord Chamberlain's Office.

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10.42 AM.

ADD PLANE

FLYING CONDITIONS WERE GOOD AT LONDON AIRPORT FOR THE RETURN.

VISIBILITY WAS THREE MILES , WITH CLOUD BASE AT 4,500- FT .

ATLANTA , APPROACHING FROM THE DIRECTION OF WINDSOR CASTLE ,
IS USING THE 9,316- FT. LONG NO " 10 LEFT " RUNWAY.

TEMPERATURE AT THE AIRPORT AT 10 AM. WAS 32 DEGREES .

THE ARGONAUT MADE THE 3,528- MILE LONDON-LAGOS JOURNEY
IN THREE STAGES : LAGOS TO KANO, 522 MILES , IN TWO HOURS
28 MINUTES FLYING TIME :

KANO TO TRIPOLI, 1,470 MILES , IN SIX HOURS 22
MINUTES FLYING TIME .

IT TOOK OFF FROM IDRIS AIRPORT , TRIPOLI AT 3.28 AM.

CG.M.T.D

10.53 AM. THE QUEEN HOME .
THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH LANDED AT LONDON AIRPORT
AT 10.52 AM.
THE 1,536 1/2 MILE JOURNEY TOOK SEVEN HOURS
24 MINUTES .

10.54 AM. ADD PLANE .
THE AIRCRAFT HAS BEGUN ITS FINAL APPROACH TO THE
RUNWAY, BEING GUIDED IN BY GROUND CONTROLLERS , WHO WILL BRING
IT DOWN TO WITHIN 100 YARDS OF THE RUNWAY.
BECAUSE OF THE SLIGHT HAZE AT THE AIRPORT , THE PILOT ,
CAPTAIN PARKER REQUESTED A " TALK-DOWN" TO HELP HIM
WITH THE LANDING.

10.58 AM. ADD THE QUEEN HOME .

THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH RETURNED TO BRITAIN TODAY FROM THEIR TOUR OF NIGERIA .

THE ROYAL PLANE , THE ARGONAUT ATALANTA , TOUCHED DOWN AT LONDON AIRPORT AT 10.52 AM.

QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER AND PRINCESS MARGARET , WITH PRINCE CHARLES AND PRINCESS ANNE, ARRIVED AT LONDON AIRPORT A QUARTER OF AN HOUR BEFORE THE ARRIVAL.

THE ARGONAUT , WHICH HAD BEEN " TALKED DOWN" FOR ITS FINAL APPROACH TO THE RUNWAY, LANDED SEVEN HOURS 24 MINUTES AFTER LEAVING IDRIS (TRIPOLI).

THE AIRCRAFT, AVERAGING 2110 M.P.H., TOOK OFF FROM IDRIS AT 3.28 AM. ON THE 1,536- MILE RUN TO LONDON AIRPORT .

THE TOTAL FLYING TIME FOR THE 3,528- MILE THREE-STAGE LAGOS - LONDON FLIGHT TOOK 16 HOURS 14 MINUTES WITH STOPS AT KANO AND IDRIS .

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12.4 PM: ROYAL CHILDREN GREET THEIR PARENTS
PRINCE CHARLES AND PRINCESS ANNE WERE AT LONDON AIRPORT TODAY
TO SEE THEIR PARENTS HOME FROM NIGERIA.

THE IRREPRESSIBLE PRINCESS- IN BLUE AND CARRYING A BLUE
FUR-TRIMMED MUFF- WAS FIRST UP THE STEPS AND INTO THE
AIRLINER "ATALANTA" WHEN THE DOOR WAS OPENED.

PRINCE CHARLES LEFT BEHIND AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STEPS ALMOST
RAN PAST THE QUEEN MOTHER AS HE GOT TO THE TOP IN ORDER TO CATCH UP
WITH HIS SISTER.

DURING THE RECEPTION ON THE MARSHALLING APRON,
PRINCESS ANNE FOLLOWED HER MOTHER EVERYWHERE, ONLY LEAVING HER
WHEN THE QUEEN WENT TO INSPECT THE R.A.F. GUARD OF HONOUR.
THE QUEEN AFTER THE SUNSHINE OF NIGERIA CLEARLY FELT THE
COLD.

AFTER THE AIRCRAFT HAD TAXIED IN, A STEWARDESS WENT ABOARD
CARRYING FUR COATS FOR THE QUEEN AND HER LADY IN
WAITING, THE COUNTESS OF EUSTON.

THERE WERE ALSO OVERCOATS FOR THE DUKE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE-
HOLD. THE QUEEN COULD BE SEEN LOOKING OUT OF A WINDOW
AS THE AIRCRAFT AXIED INTO ITS FINAL POSITION. THERE WERE HAND
WAVES FROM THE TWO CHILDREN AND FROM THE QUEEN MOTHER AND PRINCESS
MARGARET.

THE QUEEN MOTHER, PRINCESS MARGARET WITH PRINCE
CHARLES AND PRINCESS ANNE WERE IN THE AIRCRAFT ONLY A FEW MINUTES.

MR HAROLD WATKINSON, THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND CIVIL
AVIATION, BOARDED THE AIRCRAFT WITH THE AIRPORT
COMMANDANT, AIR MARSHAL SIR JOHN D'ALBIAC.

WAITING TO MEET THE QUEEN ON THE TARMAC, WERE SIR
ANTHONY EDEN, MAJOR LLOYD GEORGE, AND MR LENNOX- BOYD.

ONE OF THE NIGERIAN COMMISSIONERS IN THE ECEPTION PARTY WORE
LONG FLOWING ROBES AND A YELLOW TURBAN WHICH FASCINATED PRINCE CHARS
AND PRINCESS ANNE.

THE CHILDREN FOLLOWED THEIR PARENTS ACROSS THE TARMAC WHEN
THEY WENT OVER TO TALK TO A GROUP OF NIGERIAN CADETS FROM SANDHURST,
AND OFFICERS OF THE NIGERIAN POLICE ATTENDING THE POLICE COLLEGE
AT RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE.

THEN, THE TWO EXCITED ROYAL CHILDREN DROVE
AWAY WITH THEIR PARENTS.

12.19 PM.

ADD THE QUEEN HOME.

CHEERING CROWDS SWARMED ROUND THE ROYAL CAR AS IT DROVE SLOWLY INTO THE FORECOURT OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE AT 11.52.

THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE SMILED GAILY AND WAVED AS THE ONLOOKERS STRUGGLED FOR VANTAGE POINTS.

THE WARMTH OF HER RECEPTION OUTSIDE THE GATES WAS PERHAPS EVEN EXCEED BY THAT GIVEN THE QUEEN BY NIGERIAN STUDENTS LINING THE FORECOURT. THEY SHOUTED AND WAVED COLOURED HANDKERCHIEFS, AND PRESENTING A VERY COLOURFUL SCENE.

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