

“THE KING IS DEAD ... LONG LIVE THE QUEEN.”

King George VI died peacefully in his sleep at Sandringham Estate, Norfolk, during the early hours of the morning of Wednesday 6th February 1952. Princess Elizabeth, the heir to the throne, and Prince Philip were at Treetops Lodge, Kenya. A reporter from the East African Herald newspaper informed Prince Philip's private secretary Michael Parker, that the King was dead. At 14h45 Prince Philip informed his wife that she was Queen of Great Britain, her Dominions and her possessions beyond the sea. The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was on the 2nd June 1953.



The sculpted head of Queen Elizabeth II
in bas-relief by Arnold Machin, OBE, RA, used on British coins and postage stamps.

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 1953.

The Union of South Africa Contingent to the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II consisted of 159 Union Defence Force members and 20 South African Police members (24 Navy, 77 Army, 38 Air Force, 20 Police; Total 179). It was commanded by Brigadier S.A. Melville, OBE. The initial training and preparation was at Ysterplaat Air Force Station, Cape Town, from 9 April to 2 May, when the Contingent sailed for England on the 'Durban Castle'. The ship had a 2-hour stop at Ascension Island, a day stop at St. Helena where Brig. Melville laid a wreath at the graves of Boers who died there during the Anglo Boer War, a short stop at Las Palmas and then disembarking at Tilbury Docks, London, on 13 May.

The Contingent was billeted at Pirbright Camp, the regimental Headquarters of the Grenadier Guards, except for the 3 days before the Coronation parade when they were billeted at Kensington Gardens and Earl's Court. The return voyage was in two groups when 109 members of the Contingent sailed on the 'Stirling Castle' on 11 June and the remainder, after visiting Holland for flood relief support, sailed on the 'Warwick Castle' on 17 June, both from Southampton to Cape Town, where they were discharged at Ysterplaat Air Force Station.



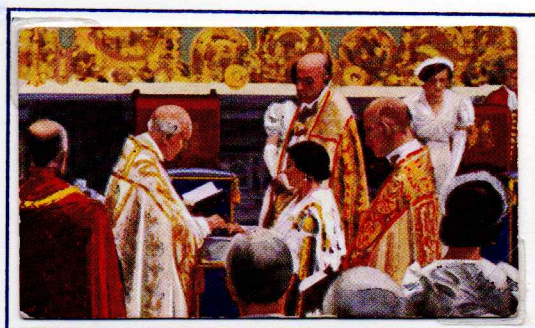
3 June 1953 FIRST DAY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN QE II CORONATION STAMP ISSUE.

A QE II Coronation cover received the Coronation Contingent cachet as used in London and was probably flown to South Africa where it received the Coronation stamps and the Pretoria first day of issue datestamp. Cachet: S.A. KRONINGSKONTINGENT / U.V.M. / 28-5-1953 / U.D.F. / S.A. CORONATION CONTINGENT
Datestamp: PRETORIA * * * -3 JUNA 53

280166 Lt. Rhenius Richards served with the 4th and 5th Field Regiments, South African Artillery, in World War 2 before transferring to the S.A. Air Force on 17 July 1943. He qualified as a pilot and served with 16 Squadron, 111 Squadron R.A.F., and 40 Squadron during the war. He served as a pilot with 2 Squadron, S.A.A.F., in Korea. On his return from Korea, he was posted to the Mobile Air Force Depot, Zwartkop, where this cover is addressed to.

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 1953.

“The Queen’s Coronation” card in the series of “The Pageant of Kingship” cards issued by Peter Jackson (Overseas) Ltd., a cigarette and tobacco dealer in Piccadilly, London. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, Baron Fisher of Lambeth, was The Archbishop of Canterbury from 1945 to 1961 and he conducted the Coronation Service and crowned Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Abby.



The Archbishop of Canterbury leading the Coronation service with Queen Elizabeth II on the Throne.



3 June 1953

THE QUEEN’S CORONATION COMMEMORATIVE STAMP ISSUE.

A registered Coronation commemorative cover (6^d registration fee and postage) with 3 x the Queen’s Coronation stamp issue of 2^d for the standard letter postage rate from Pretoria to Port Elizabeth.

Datestamp: PRETORIA *** -3 JUNE53 (The date of the stamp issue).

Registration Cachet: PRETORIA NO 2626/4

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 1953.

20 March 1953

SELECTION AS A MEMBER OF THE CORONATION CONTINGENT.

A telegram from the Adjutant General, Union Defence Force, to WO 2 Philip van der Walt notifying him that he has been selected as a member of the South African Contingent to attend the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in London on 3 June 1953.

The telegram was sent from Pretoria to Johannesburg and then delivered to Krugersdorp.

Datestamp: JOHANNESBURG 91 20.III. 53-19:00

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.—POSKANTOOR-TELEGRAAFDIENS.

G.P.-S.10637—1949-50—200.000-200. S. This form should accompany any enquiry.
Hierdie vorm moet alle navrae vergesel.

No. 2355

RECEIVED
ONTVANG

JOHANNESBURG
20.III.53-19:00
91

PJA690 S PRETORIA 30 1730 ETATBG

PM 6 08

= WO2 P J VANDERWALT

39 KIMBERLEYSTREET WENTWORTH PARK

PR A

KRUGERSDORP

STAMP.
KANTOORSTEMPEL.

SENT.
OORGESEIN.

= YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE S A CORONATION
CONTINGENT STOP FULL INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY BY
LETTER = ADJUTANT GENERAL U D F +

FGS 39 AND WO2 +

WO II Philip (Butch) J. van der Walt, ED, joined the Rand Light Infantry in 1933 and saw service in North Africa at El Alamein and as an instructor with the Special Service Battalion in Egypt. He was a member of the S.S.B. when selected for the Coronation Contingent. In 1939 he was the South African Middleweight Boxing Champion.

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 1953.

25 April 1953 TELEGRAM TO THE CORONATION CONTINGENT ON THE 'DURBAN CASTLE'.

A telegram from the Central Telegraph Office, Cape Town, to WO 2 Philip van der Walt as a member of the South African Contingent sailing on the "Durban Castle" at the Cape Town docks to attend the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Datestamp: CTO CAPE TOWN STK KAAPSTAD 25 APR.-53

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.—POSKANTOOR-TELEGRAAFDIENS.

T. 22.

G.P.-S.10637—1949-50—200,000-200 S.

This form should accompany any enquiry.
Hierdie vorm moet alle navrae vergeesl.

No. _____

RECEIVED
ONTVANG

PM 8 30

+ JCA449 JHBURG / P 22 25 : 2000 =

OFFICE STAMP.
KANTOORSTEMPEL.



WARRENT OFFICER P VDWALT DURBAN CASTLE DOCKS CAPETN =

SENT.
OORGESE

= BON VOYAGE HAPPY HOLIDAY STRAIGHT MARCHING DOWN THE MALL

SAFE LANDING LOVE = HELEN BILLIE + IRPT MALL +

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 1953.

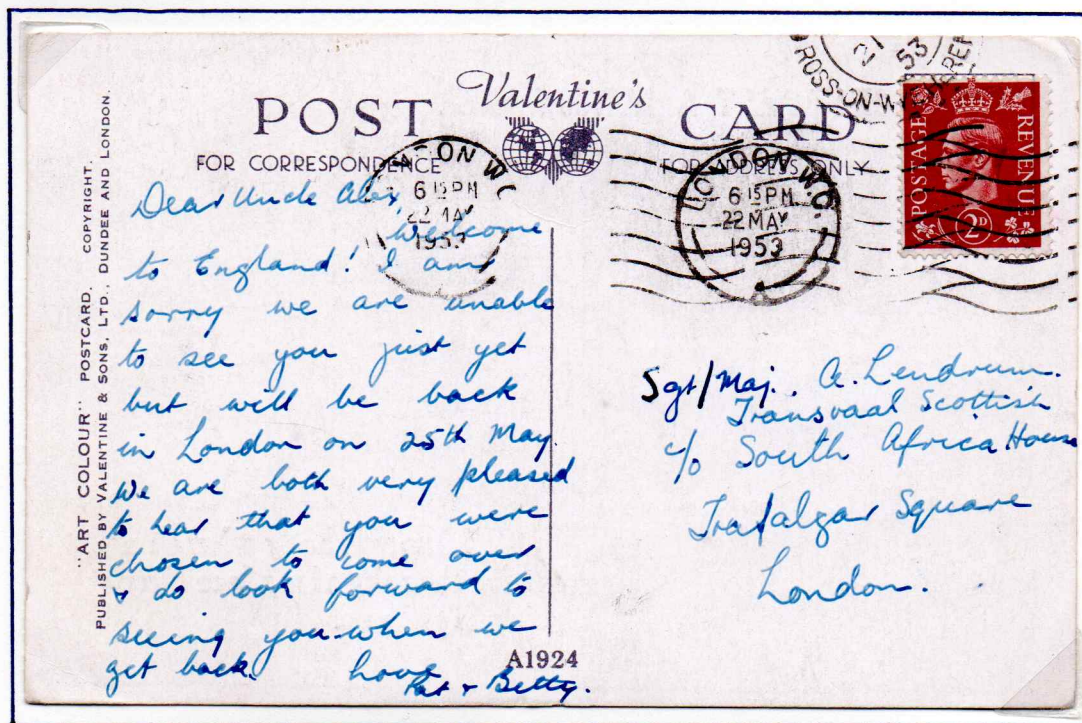
22 May 1953

A POSTCARD TO THE CORONATION CONTINGENT IN LONDON.

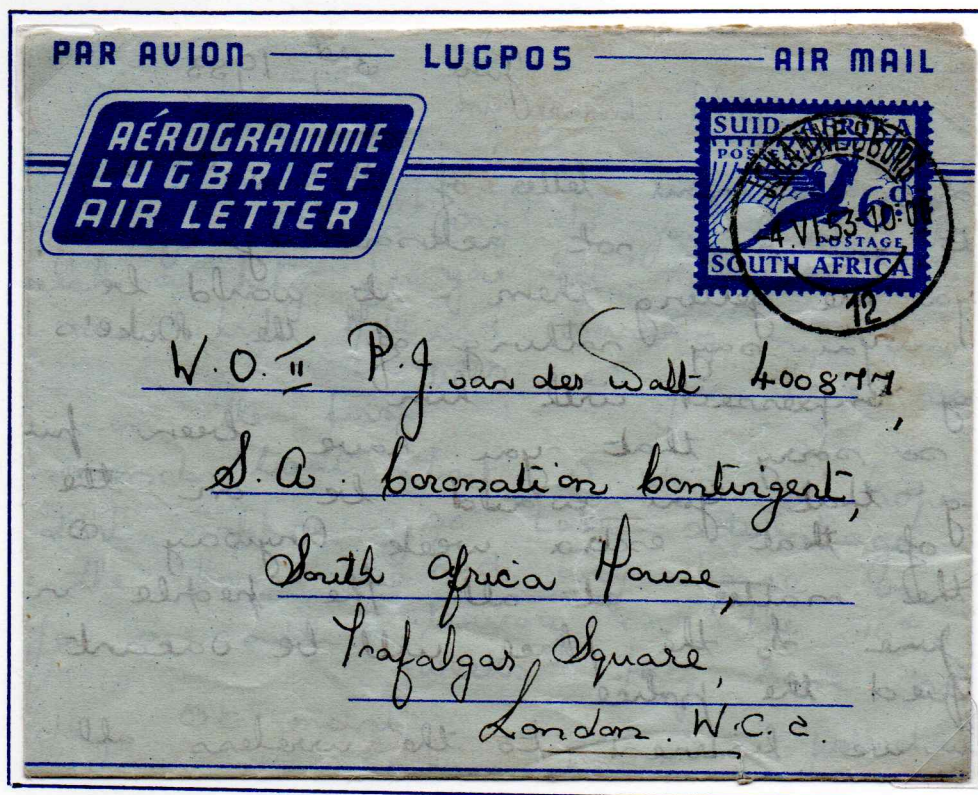
A postcard (2^d postage) from Ross-on-Wye, England, to WO 2 Alex Lendrum, MC, 2 Transvaal Scottish, a member of the South African Coronation contingent, addressed care of South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London.

Datestamps: (i) ROSS-ON-WYE HEREF(ORD) 21 (MY) 53.

(ii) LONDON W.O. A 6¹⁵PM 22 MAY 1953 (arrival)



The writer refers to "Yesterday we listened to the wireless all day" referring to the Coronation broadcast and then the Contingent being presented with medals "today" (the day after the Coronation).



4 June 1953

AN AIR LETTER TO THE CORONATION CONTINGENT IN LONDON.

An air letter (6^d postage) from Johannesburg to WO 2 Philip van der Walt, Special Service Battalion, a member of the South African Coronation contingent, addressed care of the South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London.

Datestamp: JOHANNESBURG 12 -4.VI.53-10:00

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 1953.

30 May 1953

AN AIR LETTER WITH THE 'SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE, LONDON', CACHET.

An air letter (6^d postage) from Johannesburg to WO 2 Philip van der Walt, a member of the South African Coronation Contingent attending the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, addressed to South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London. This air letter has the cachet of South Africa House, the High Commission for South Africa in the United Kingdom and was received on the day of the Coronation – 3 June 1953.

Cachet: SUID-AFRIKA HUIS, LONDEN / SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE, LONDON / 3 JUN 1953

Datestamp: JOHANNESBURG 95 30.V.53-16:00

PAR AVION — LUGPOS — AIR MAIL

**AÉROGRAMME
LUGBRIEF
AIR LETTER**

**SUID-AFRIKA
HUIS
LONDEN
30 V 53
POSTAGE
SUID-AFRIKA**

W.O.H. P.J. van der Walt
S. africa House.
Trafalgar Square.
London W.C. 2

AS ENIGIETS INGESLUIT WORD, SAL HIERDIE
BRIEF PER GEWONE POS GESTUUR WORD

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

EERSTE VOU — FIRST FOLD

NAAM EN ADRES VAN AFSENDER
SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

van der Walt
Stoepkruis
Melle St. Mammant
ghb

**SUID-AFRIKA HUIS LONDEN
3 JUN 1953**

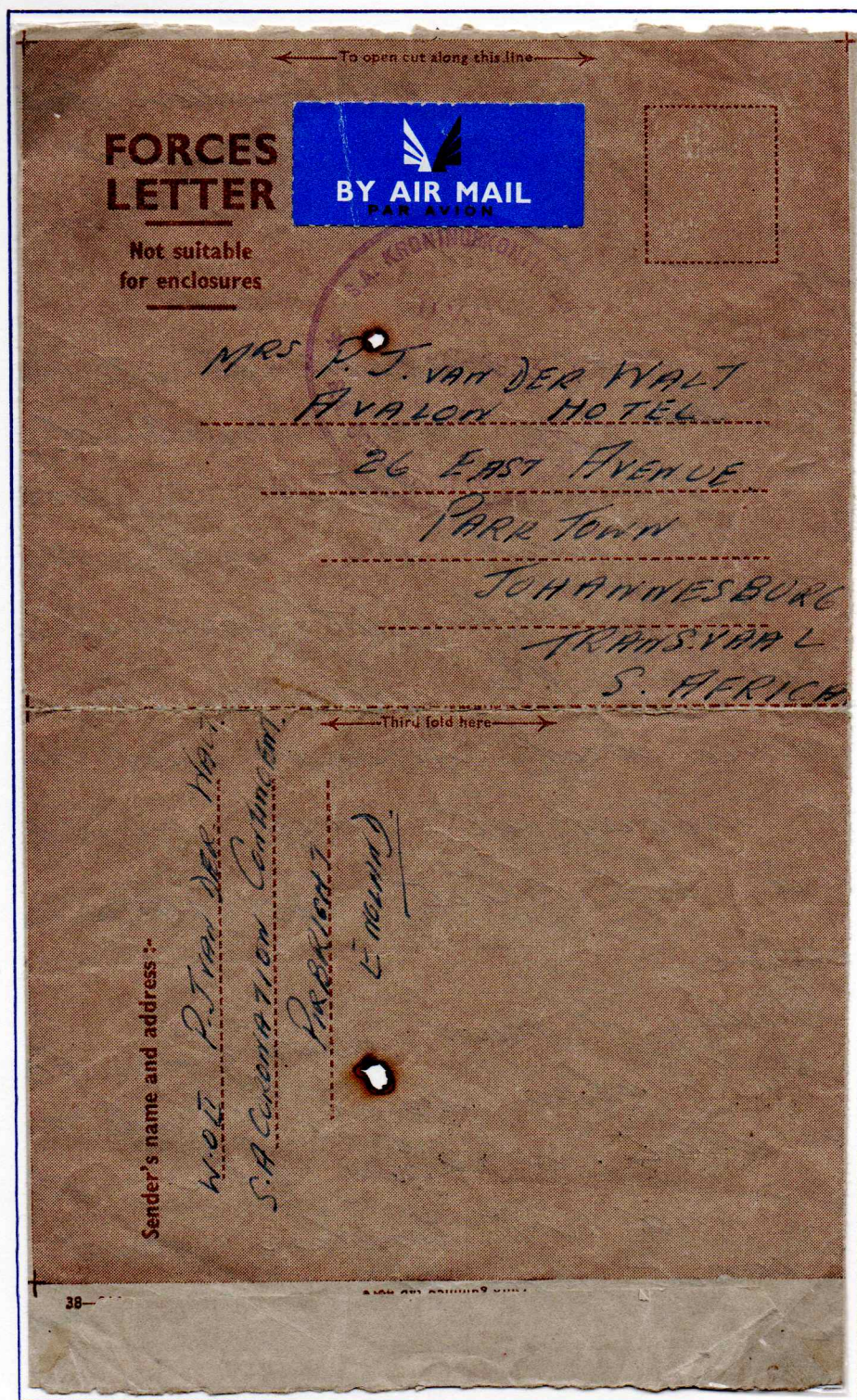
TWEDE VOU — SECOND FOLD

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 1953.

10 June 1953 AN AIR LETTER FROM THE CORONATION CONTINGENT IN LONDON.

A British Forces air letter (postage free) from WO 2 Philip van der Walt, Special Service Battalion and a member of the South African Contingent to the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, in London written to his wife in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The 'S.A. Coronation Contingent' cachet authorised postage free mail for contingent members to South Africa.
Cachet: S.A. KRONINGSKONTINGENT / U.V.M. / 10 – 6 – 1953 / S.A. CORONATION CONTINGENT



This was written the day before he sailed with 119 contingent members on the 'Stirling Castle' returning to South Africa. The remaining 59 contingent members sailed on the 'Warwick Castle' on 18 June 1953.

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II - 1953.

5 May 1953

SOUTH AFRICAN CORONATION CONTINGENT LEAVE APPLICATION.

An application for vacation leave during the period that the South African Coronation Contingent was in the United Kingdom. WO 2 Alex Lendrum, MC, a member of 2 Transvaal Scottish and the South African Coronation Contingent applied for 5 days leave to visit The Black Watch Regiment in Perth, Scotland. The Transvaal Scottish Regiment is affiliated to The Black Watch.

The application form is signed by Capt. J.J. Smith, Adjutant of the Contingent.

S.A. CORONATION CONTINGENT.

APPLICATION FOR VACATION LEAVE.

(To be completed in duplicate)

No. 400837 Rank. WO 2 Name. Alex Lendrum
Number of days. 5 From. 5/5/53 To. 9/5/53
Full Address(es) during leave (1). Black Watch Depot
Perth Scotland
(If leave is being spent in two different places give both addresses)

(2)

Alex Lendrum
Signature of Applicant.

Recommended

Date

Signature of Section Commander

APPROVED

Date

J. J. Smith Brigadier
Officer Commanding S.A. Coronation Contingent


THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 1953.

22 May 1953

CORONATION CONTINGENT APPROVED LEAVE FORM.

An approved leave form granting WO II Alex Lendrum, MC, leave of absence from the South African Coronation Contingent at Pirbright Camp for a period of 3 days. He visited the Black Watch Regimental Headquarters at Balhousie Castle in Perth, Scotland.

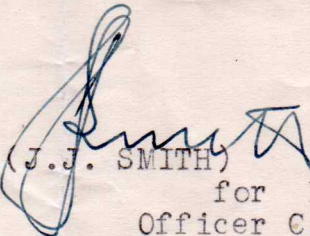
Telephone: WHITEHALL 4488.
Telegraphic Address:—
"OPPOSITELY, LESQUARE, LONDON!"



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE,
TRAFALGAR SQUARE,
LONDON, W. C. 2

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that No 400837 Warrant Officer 11 A.C.J. Lendrum has been granted leave of absence from 1300 hours on 23 May 1953 to 0600 hours on 26 May 1953.


(J.J. SMITH) Captain
for Brigadier
Officer Commanding
S.A. Coronation Contingent



THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 1953.



The supreme moment of the Coronation ceremony
in Westminster Abbey on 2nd June, 1953.

THE QUEEN IS CROWNED.

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 1953.



The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey, 2 June 1953.



The procession of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II at Piccadilly Circus, London

Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation Medal, 1953

The Queen has instituted a special silver Medal to commemorate Her Majesty's Coronation on the 2nd June, 1953. The Medal will be known as "The Coronation Medal" and will be issued as a personal souvenir from Her Majesty to State servants and other specially selected persons in Commonwealth countries.

The Medal, which has been designed by Mr. Cecil Thomas, shows, on the obverse, the Effigy of Her Majesty The Queen, crowned and robed, and looking to the observers' right and, on the reverse, the Royal Cypher, "E.R. II", surmounted by the Crown, and the circumscription "Queen Elizabeth II, Crowned 2nd June, 1953". The Medal is $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter and will be worn suspended from a ribbon $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in width, dark red in colour, with narrow white stripes at the edges and two narrow dark blue vertical stripes near the centre.

The Coronation Medal has been classified as an Official Medal. It may be worn on all occasions on which decorations and medals are worn, on the left breast after war medals, Jubilee and previous Coronation Medals. Ladies not in uniform will wear the Medal on the left shoulder of the dress, the ribbon in this case being in the form of a bow. Ladies who are already in possession of official medals worn on a bar may, if they wish, add the Coronation Medal to the bar instead of wearing it separately on a bow.

Commercially manufactured medallions of whatever origin sold on the occasion of the Coronation should not be worn in such a manner that they might be confused with the Official Medal awarded by Her Majesty.

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER,
PRETORIA.

G.P.-8.

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 1953.

‘THE CORONATION MEDAL’

A certificate acknowledging the issue of ‘The Queen’s Coronation Medal’ to Mr. Albert Wilhelm Rooseboom by the authorities in Buckingham Palace to a South African who was not part of the Coronation Contingent.



BUCKINGHAM-PALEIS

Op Bevel van
HAAR MAJESTEIT DIE KONINGIN
word die bygaande Medalje gestuur aan

.....
DIE HEER ALBERT WILHELM ROOSEBOOM
.....

om gedra te word ter herinnering aan
Haar Majesteit se Kroning
2 Junie 1953

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 1953.

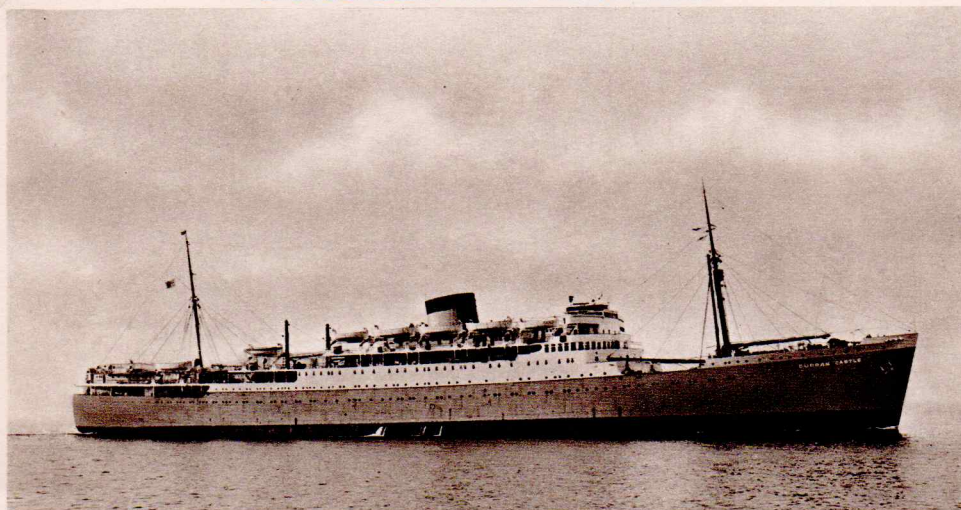
THE CORONATION CONTINGENT SEA VOYAGES TO LONDON AND FROM SOUTHAMPTON.

'THE DURBAN CASTLE'.

2 May 1953

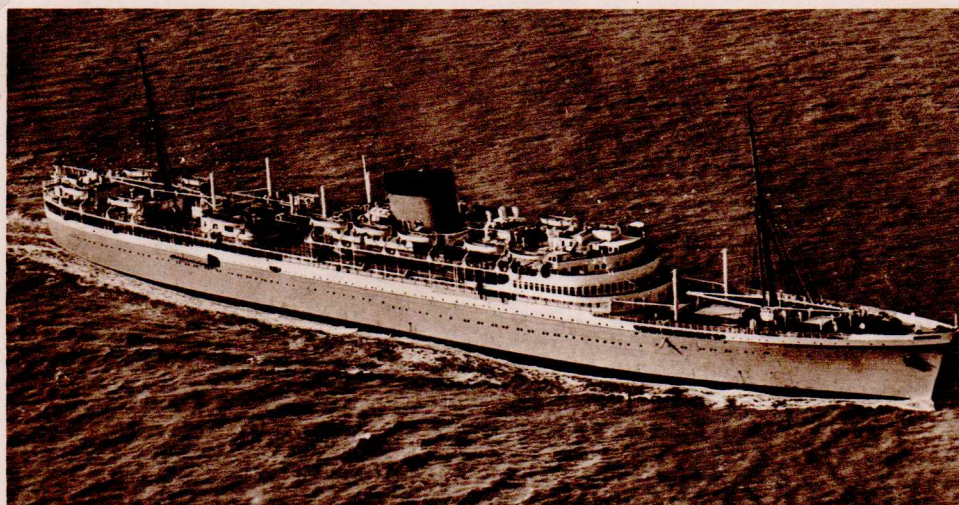
The South African Coronation Contingent sailed from Cape Town on the 'Durban Castle' on 2 May, visiting Ascension Island, St. Helena and Las Palmas before disembarking at Tilbury Docks, London, on 15 May.

UNION-CASTLE LINE TO SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.



THE UNION-CASTLE LINE M.V. "DURBAN CASTLE." 17,382 TONS.

UNION-CASTLE LINE TO SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.



THE UNION-CASTLE ROYAL MAIL MOTOR VESSEL "STIRLING CASTLE." 25,554 TONS.

'THE STIRLING CASTLE'.

11 June 1953

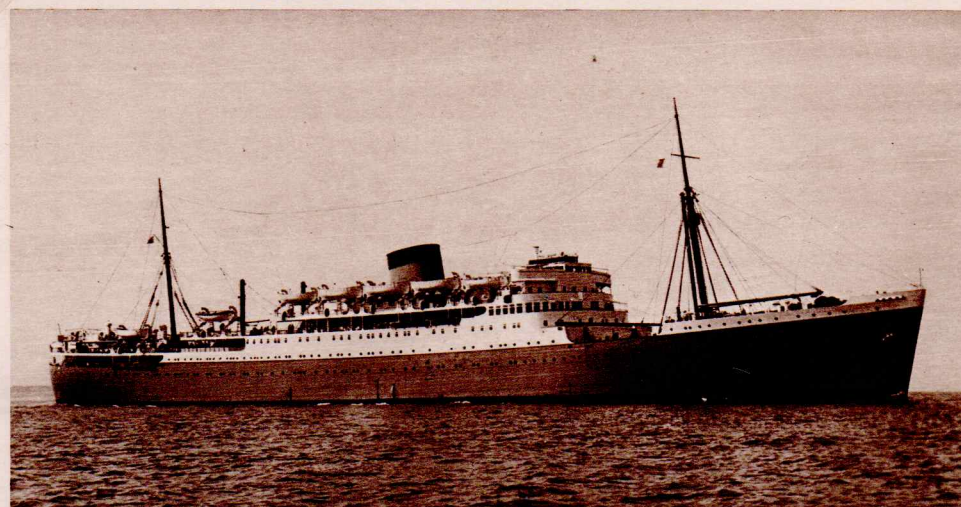
109 members of the South African Coronation Contingent returned on 11 June from Southampton, England, on the 'Stirling Castle' and arrived in Cape Town on 23 June.

'THE WARWICK CASTLE'.

17 June 1953

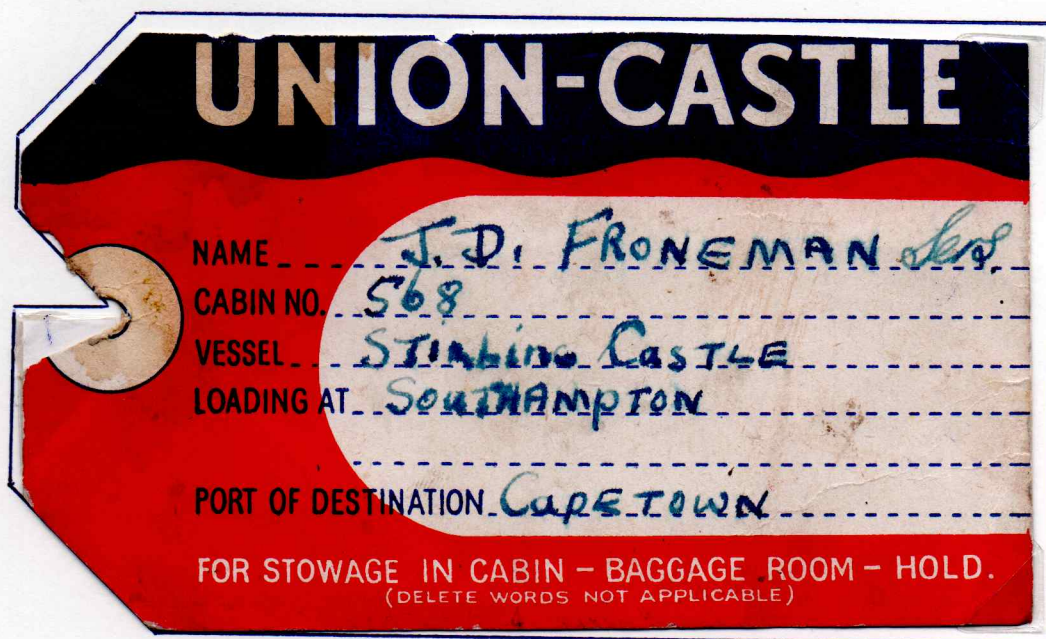
50 members of the South African Coronation Contingent helped with flood relief in Holland before leaving King George V Dock, London, on 17 June on the 'Warwick Castle' and arrived in Cape Town on 29 June.

UNION-CASTLE LINE TO SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA



THE UNION-CASTLE LINE M.V. "WARWICK CASTLE." 17,387 TONS.

THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 1953.



A luggage label for the ship 'Union-Castle'. The label is red and white with a black header. It contains handwritten information in blue ink. The text is as follows:

UNION-CASTLE

NAME J.D. FRONEMAN
CABIN NO. 568
VESSEL STIRLING CASTLE
LOADING AT SOUTHAMPTON
PORT OF DESTINATION CAPE TOWN

FOR STOWAGE IN CABIN – BAGGAGE ROOM – HOLD.
(DELETE WORDS NOT APPLICABLE)

June 1953

CORONATION CONTINGENT BAGGAGE LABEL.

A luggage label used by Sgt. J.D. Froneman, a member of the South African Coronation Contingent, on the homeward return voyage aboard the 'Stirling Castle' from Southampton, England, to Cape Town.



An Immigration Landing Permit card from the Union of South Africa. The card is white with black and red text. It contains the following information:

D.I. 171.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Immigration Landing Permit.

This card must be presented on arrival to the examining immigration officer.

Not valid for re-boarding until ship is opened to public.

Name of Ship "STIRLING CASTLE"
No. on Passenger List 469
Name of Passenger Froneman
J.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER
SOUTH AFRICA/SUID-AFRIKA
No. 25-6-1953
INITIALS
VOORLETTERE
CAPE TOWN/KAAPSTAD
(IMMIGRATION OFFICER'S STAMP.)
IMMIGRASIEBEAMPT

25 June 1953

CORONATION CONTINGENT IMMIGRATION LANDING PERMIT.

An Immigration Landing permit issued to Sgt. J.D. Froneman, a member of the South African Coronation Contingent, on the arrival of the 'Stirling Castle' at the Cape Town Docks on 25 June 1953.