

1 5 2 7 / E

CORONATION OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II.

Civilian Representative.

CONFIDENTIAL

COR/55/01.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

NO. 142



X COLONIAL OFFICE,

THE CHURCH HOUSE,

GREAT SMITH STREET,

WESTMINSTER.

8 August, 1952.



Sir,

I have the honour to address you on the subject of the representation of the Colonial territories at Her Majesty's forthcoming Coronation.

2. It is the Queen's wish that the gathering at the Coronation Ceremony shall be as representative as possible and I have it in command from Her Majesty to invite you to nominate a gentleman to represent the general community of the territory under your administration at the Coronation. I am content to leave it to you to decide how this representative should be chosen but you will no doubt be at pains to ensure that he is one who has identified himself with local interests over a considerable period of years and who deserves the goodwill of his fellow citizens, and I presume that it should be possible for a choice to be made which would meet with general approval throughout the territory.

3. The selected representative will be treated as a Distinguished Visitor during the period of the Coronation celebrations and, with his wife should he desire to bring her, will be given all possible facilities during his stay in this country, including seats for the Ceremony in Westminster Abbey. It will, however, not be possible for him to be accommodated and entertained at the public expense during his stay in this country, nor can his travelling expenses be met from United Kingdom funds. The period during which he shall be entertained at the expense of his own Government is therefore a matter for local decision but I would suggest that a period of not more than two to three weeks should be sufficient. If so desired arrangements for the provision of accommodation at a London Hotel will be made by the Minister in charge of Government Hospitality but I regret that at this stage I am unable to give you any indication of the charges which are likely to be made although you will of course appreciate that they will be abnormally high during this period.

4. I shall be grateful if you will inform me as soon as possible and in any event not later than the 31st October, 1952:-

- (a) of the name of the gentleman who is nominated to represent the territory under your administration,
- (b) whether he will be accompanied by his wife,
- (c) whether it is desired that hotel accommodation shall be reserved by the Minister in charge of Government Hospitality and, if so, for what period,
- (d) whether or not it is desired that I should take steps to arrange for the provision of a return passage either by sea or air, and, if so, for what date,

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING

THE GOVERNMENT OF

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

cf. we might discuss this
in Ex. Co.?
8/9

/ (c)

Lee 3 + 4



17
2

(e) whether your Government will be prepared to meet the cost of the provision of a car to convey the representative (and his wife if she accompanies him) to the Abbey on the day of the Ceremony should this prove necessary.

5. I shall also be grateful if you would provide me with a biographical note on the gentleman you select which can be used for issue to the press if necessary.

6. I will address you again in due course on the question of publicity.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble servant,

Oliver Johnston

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR.

Despatched: 19.9.32. Time: 1230. Received: 20.9.32 Time: 0845

#1 No 10h. My despatch No 112. Coronation. Colonial Representation.

It will be most difficult Government hospitality to reserve accommodation for representative you select unless precise dates his stay are available. Please therefore give this information in your reply if accommodation is required.

SECRETARY OF STATE

H.H. informed.
B.u. on file EARLY.
(Intld) J.B.

20/9

GTC
SS

DECODE.TELEGRAM SENT.

4

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR.

Despatched: 12.10.52, Time: 0930, Received: 13.10.52 Time: 0845

No 114. My despatch No 142. Coronation Colonial Representation.

The arrangements representation your territory and name of selected representative may be announced at your discretion.

Announcement should however not be made until time has been allowed for particulars of your representative to reach me in order that I may be in a position to answer any enquiry I may receive.

I should like to be furnished by Saving if possible in time to reach me before date of release with text of any local announcement.

GTC
SSSee - K.V. - see 11
13/10
SECRETARY OF STATE.

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched: 22.10.52. Time: 1045. Received: Time:.....

No 147. Please pass to Sir Miles Clifford begins:-

Grateful reply my letter 22nd September, Coronation
representative ends.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

X X
BU. 28/X/52

Reply at .6

GTC
SS

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 16.11.52. Time: 1000. Received: 17.11.52. Time: 0845

5
No 127. CONFIDENTIAL. Your telegram No 147. Coronation Representative.

Following from Harrison begins.

In HCSS safe
Sir Miles Clifford has now received your letter of September 22nd. He considers Major A.I. Fleuret's long and meritorious service makes him first choice for honour of representing Colony; incidentally it will save money.

2. Alternatively - Mercer. Governor does not think it would be proper to select Bonner twice in succession and other "possible" does not commend himself to him.

3. If you agree nominate Fleuret we will now approach him direct to save time. Grateful you say whether your Government prepared meet the cost of hotel accommodation in London to cover day of ceremony if this necessary and cost of transport by car to Abbey. Ends.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

Y.H.

Above f.i. - relative letter is attached.
(Intld) J.B.

17/11.

Reply at 7

gtc
SS

7
DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched: 17.11.52. Time: 1530. Received: Time:

6
No 161. CONFIDENTIAL. Your telegram No 127. Coronation
Representative. Following for Harrison begins.

Agree nomination Fleuret. Grateful you approach and
advise outcome when local public announcement can be made and
biographical note forwarded to you. Agree to meeting expenses
mentioned in your paragraph 3. Ends.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

GTC
SS

Reply 8

BW 17/12/52

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

8

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR.

Despatched: 9.12.52. Time: 1000. Received: 10.12.52. Time: 0845

7

No 134. Your telegram No 161. Coronation representative.

Following from Harrison begins.

Fleuret accepts nomination. Copy of letter acceptance follows. Ends.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

Y.H.
f.i.
(Intld)J.E.B.

(Intld)C.C.
10/12.

GTC
SS

9.
A.C.S.

Para 5. p. 2.

Pl draft.

[Signature]
12/12

[Signature]

Benjamin was on the
morning death of his career - you
will see a good guide from the
history in the 1937 Bowman year

1941

32 to not correct - he
found in 1942 - a date

[Signature]
12/12

Yes 40 years I looked at
pensionable Service

13/12/52

[Signature]

Draft at B.C. Pl.
Lupin

Y.N. Draft at B.C. - 34/0. it appears
possibly but I assume C.O. will
re-write. *[Signature]*
23/12

C.P. Inst Apps - but we have para 4^① to deal with. I think the best thing is to write d/o to Plenet ask him to supply the information direct to co. with copy to us. — & we shall advise co. of this procedure.

2) a) they know b) & c) he must answer d) is no
& e) is yes.

23/12

Spoken. H.H.

In view para 3 p.6. we can assume
C.O. revised these points with Plenet.

NAN

[Signature]

From: The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date: 24th December, 1952.

No. 243. COLONY. SAVING.

841

Your telegram No. 134 and your despatch No. 142 of 1952, paragraph 5.

Biographical note on Major A. I. Fleuret, M.B.E., B.A., selected representative for the colony at Her Majesty's forthcoming Coronation.

Major Fleuret was born in the Falkland Islands, 5th May, 1899, and his total Government service in the Colony and Dependencies amounted to 40 years. During this period he held the following posts:-

Chief Clerk, Colonial Secretary's Office	1. 1. 28 - 31. 12. 36
Assistant Colonial Secretary	1. 1. 37 - 16. 4. 42
Clerk of the Legislative and Executive Councils	1. 1. 28 - 16. 4. 42
Administrative Officer and Magistrate at South Georgia	17. 4. 42 - 4. 9. 52

and he also acted in various appointments, such as Magistrate and Postmaster, in the Colony. He retired on pension this year.

Major Fleuret was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (Military Division) in July, 1940, and was awarded the Officers' Efficiency Decoration in 1947.

He represented the Colony at the funeral of His late Majesty King George VI.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

12.

Y.B.

Draft Public Notice S.F.C.

Agree - I
had doubts
this.

This should not issue for a few days yet.
to record with p.h. - p.h. should reach
C.O. early next week.

At last S.F.C. I was asked whether a
decision had been reached to which I replied
in the negative. Do you wish me to
inform the unofficial members before the
notice is issued?

J.B.
2/11/11

C.S.

Ex Co. should be told confidentially
but not the Leg Co. members. The last
time I told them something in
confidence there was a direct leakage
a few hours after. Q
3/1

A.C.S.

It arrange for draft at. to
be issue on Friday next when it
can be read by the news reader.

J.B.
5/11

PUBLIC NOTICE.

It is notified for general information that Major A.I. Fleuret, M.B.E., E.D., has been selected to represent The Colony and its Dependencies at the forthcoming Coronation of Her Majesty The Queen.

2. Major Fleuret was born at Fitzroy in the year 1899 spent some 40 years in Government service the greater part of which was in the Colonial Secretary's Office where he rose to the rank of Assistant Colonial Secretary. In 1942 he was appointed Administrative Officer and Magistrate at South Georgia where he remained until his retirement in 1952.

3. Mrs. Fleuret will accompany her husband at the Ceremony.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
STANLEY.
8th January, 1953.

COR. 55/50/01.

28 NOV 1952
2115
3 JAN 52
Nov 28, 1952.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton to inform you that the Governor of the Falkland Islands has nominated you to represent the general community of the territory at the Coronation of Her Majesty The Queen in June next.

The representatives nominated by Governors for this purpose will be treated as distinguished visitors during the period of the Coronation celebrations and, with their wives if they desire to bring them, will be afforded all possible facilities including seats for the ceremony in Westminster Abbey. It will not be possible for them to be accommodated and entertained at the expense of United Kingdom funds during this period but it is, however, understood that the Government of the Falkland Islands would be prepared to meet any extraordinary expenditure, including if necessary, reasonable hotel expenses, incurred by you as the territory's representative.

If, as is assumed, you wish to remain at your home in Harrow during the period of the Coronation celebrations, arrangements will be made to provide you with a car to convey you, and your wife if necessary, to and from the Abbey on Coronation Day, and the Falkland Islands Government will meet the cost of your transport to and from any functions to which you might be invited in your capacity as the territory's representative.

If, however, you would prefer to stay in a hotel in Central London during the celebrations, arrangements can be made through the Minister in Charge of Government Hospitality for

MAJOR A. I. FLEURET, M.B.E.

/accommodation

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accommodation to be reserved, and in this event I am to request you to inform this Office as soon as possible the date from which accommodation is required and for what period. In this connection you should know that there is no set period for which the Coronation celebrations will last but those official functions for which you may expect to be invited will probably be held during the period 28th May to 12th June, and it is in any event unlikely that hotels will be prepared to accept bookings for a period of less than one week at the time of the Coronation.

I am accordingly to request you to inform this Office as soon as possible whether you will be prepared to represent the general community of the Falkland Islands at the Coronation next year, and, if so, whether you would wish your wife to accompany you to the ceremony in Westminster Abbey and also the extent, if any, to which you require hotel accommodation reserved.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) W.W. CLARK

56, Vista Way,
Kenton, Harrow,
Middlesex.

1st December, 1952.

Sir,

15 I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of, and to thank you for your letter, C.O.R.55/50/01 of the 28th of November, 1952, and to inform you that I shall have great pleasure in representing the general community of the Falkland Islands at the Coronation next year.

I would wish my wife to accompany me to the ceremony in Westminster Abbey but I would prefer to remain at my home in Harrow during the celebrations.

I should be very grateful, therefore, if arrangements could be made to provide a car to convey me and my wife to and from the Abbey on Coronation Day.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for and deep appreciation of the opportunity which has thus been afforded me of representing the general community of the Colony, of which I am a native, on such a memorable occasion.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) A.I. Fleuret.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
London,
S.W.1.



COR. 55/50/01.

/0 December, 1952.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st December about your nomination as the representative of the Falkland Islands at the Coronation of Her Majesty and to say that a copy has been forwarded to the Governor for his information.

You may expect to receive in due course details of the arrangements proposed for the attendance of your wife and yourself at the Coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey and also of the regulations laid down by the Earl Marshal regarding the dress to be worn on this occasion.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

MAJOR A. I. FLEURET, M.B.E.

Saving

COR. 56/01.

20

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies

To the Officer Administering the Government of FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Date

28 APR 1953

No.

49

Saving



My despatch No. 142 of the 8th August.

Coronation.

I enclose, for your information a copy of my circular savingram No. 260/53 about Coronation Programme of Events. A copy of this circular has been sent direct to Major Fleuret.

SECEP.

Q.2

1527/E
DECODE.

22
TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 25.4.53

Time: 1315

Received: 26.4.53 Time: 0845

21
Unnumbered Circular (2) of 24th April. My circular savingram 260/53. Coronation Programme of Events. You will have noted from my circular savingram under reference that it is proposed that all official Coronation representatives who will be here at the time should be invited to attend a service to be held at St. Pauls Cathedral. I am however anxious that all those seats which have been placed at the disposal of the Colonial Office should be occupied and I should therefore be grateful to learn by telegram not later than the 10th May whether the official representatives of your territory would wish to attend the service. I am communicating separately with any representatives already in the United Kingdom.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

Y.H.

f.i.

This telegram was unnecessary.

(Intld) J.E.B.

27/4

P/L
SS

Yes.
(Intld) G.C.
27/4

Mail from 21
PA

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

23

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched : 13.5.53 Time : 1015 Received : 13.5.53 Time : 1400

21

Circular No 12. My Circular Savingram 260 /53 Coronation
Programme of Events.

Arrangements are being made for all persons selected
represent general communities Colonial territories and their
wives who will not be leaving United Kingdom on or before
June 16th. to be invited witness Naval Review as Admiralty
guests.

SECRETARY OF STATE

YK. to me (v).
BX

GTC
SS

24

Q.

Is there anything you wished me to see in
this? I think it is all plain sailing?

inc 14/v

only (23) P/A.

14 Q.

11th June, 53.

Sir,

18

With reference to your letter of the 1st of December, 1952, addressed to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, accepting the invitation to represent the Colony at Her Majesty's Coronation, I am directed to ask if you will be so good as to furnish an account of your various activities during the celebrations for record purposes and local broadcast.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) C. Campbell

Colonial Secretary.

Copy 12/8/53

Major A.I. Fleuret, M.B.E., E.D.,
56, Vista Way,
Benton,
Harrow,
Middlesex,
ENGLAND.



56, Vista Way,
Kenton, Harrow,
Middlesex,
16th July, 1953.

Sir,

In duplicate.
15
I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1527/E of the 11th of June, 1953, and to transmit herewith, as requested, an account of my activities during the period of the Coronation Celebrations.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of Colonial Office letter, C.O.P. 55/50/91 of the 28th of November, 1952, I have to inform you that a sum of £2. 0. 6 was expended by me on train and road fares, etc., to and from various official functions during the Celebrations and I would be grateful if this sum could be refunded to me and placed to the credit of my Savings Bank Account in the Colony.

I am,

Sir,

Your Obedient servant,

A. Stewart

BVF

THE HONOURABLE
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
STANLEY,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Reply at 36

28

ACCOUNT OF ACTIVITIES OF MAJOR A. I. FLEURET,
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COLONY OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS
DURING THE PERIOD OF HER MAJESTY'S CORONATION CELEBRATIONS.

26th May. Opening of "Queen and Commonwealth" Exhibitions by the Honourable Sir Matthew Oram, M.B.E.

Unavoidably prevented from accepting this invitation,

28th May. Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

The weather was perfect and the sun shone burning bright. Outside the Palace thousands of people had gathered to see the decorations and remained to cheer the guests on their way while inside the Palace the smartest women guests in picture hats and lace dresses strolled the lawns.

Some 7,000 guests were present including those persons officially representing the Colonial Territories at the Coronation and visitors from almost every country in the world.

Her Majesty the Queen accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and other Members of the Royal Family, entered the grounds shortly after 4.0 p.m., when a number of guests including representatives of Member countries of the Commonwealth Overseas, were presented to Her Majesty. The Royal Party moved slowly through the crowd joining in conversation with many of the guests before finally taking tea in the Royal Enclosure.

The Royal group were charming and colourful and the visitors from the East added hectic hues to the green lawns and blue skies.

29th May. Government Reception at Claridge's Hotel.

Unavoidably prevented from accepting this invitation.

31st May. British Broadcasting Corporation Commonwealth Gala at the Palladium.

This was a most enjoyable performance organized by the British Broadcasting Corporation which lasted from 8.30 p.m., to 10.0 p.m.

Many representatives from Colonial Territories were present.

2nd June.

Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the Abbey
Church of Westminster.

The morning was bleak and cold with heavy rain showers. I left my home in Kenton accompanied by my wife at 5.0 a.m. We arrived at the Abbey at 6.20 a.m., and were immediately conducted to the places reserved for us in the Nave of the Abbey. The Doors were closed at 8.30 a.m.

Members of the Royal Family arrived at 8.50 a.m., followed by the Royal and other Representatives of Foreign States at 9.0 o'clock. At 9.35 a.m., Her Majesty the Queen Salote of Tonga and other Rulers of States under Her Majesty's Protection arrived and were conducted to the places reserved for them in the Choir. They were followed by Their Royal Highnesses the Princes and Princesses of the Royal Blood at 10.14 a.m. Then came the Processions of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret all of whom were conducted to their places in the Royal Gallery.

At 10.38 o'clock the ceremony of delivering the Regalia to the Peers appointed to bear the same was performed. Then at 11.15 a.m., the great moment for which we had all been waiting when Her Majesty the Queen accompanied by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh joined the Procession awaiting Her in the Vestibule and entering by the West Door of the Abbey proceeded in State through the Nave and the Choir to Her Chair of Estate near the Altar the choristers singing the Anthem: "I was glad when they said unto me

We will go into the House of the Lord".

Her Majesty's passage through the Nave of the Abbey was slow and most dignified. She looked magnificent in Her Royal Robe of Crimson Velvet trimmed with Ermine and bordered with Gold Lace; wearing the collar of the Garter and a Diadem of Precious Stones upon Her head.

The Regalia was now laid upon the Altar and suddenly silence fell over the 3,000 congregation in the Abbey as the most impressive and moving ceremony we shall ever witness followed.

When the ceremony terminated the Stately Procession moved slowly from the Abbey. Her Majesty who carried the Orb and Sceptre in Her hand and wearing Her Imperial Crown upon Her head walked in solemn dignity. As she passed through the Choir and Nave the huge congregation sang "God Save the Queen". This was a sight never-to-be-forgotten and so ended the Coronation - to be remembered for all time - of our beautiful young Queen.

After the Processions of Her Majesty the Queen, the Royal Family and Rulers of States had withdrawn the Abbey was quickly cleared and we proceeded to the Church House where a cold and most enjoyable lunch was served.

The State Coach with its eight Grey horses and eleven Coachmen were drawn up outside the Church House during the luncheon period so that we were most fortunate in being given the opportunity of viewing this wonderful old Golden Coach from close quarters.

We left the immediate vicinity of the Abbey after lunch and arrived home at 5.30 p.m.

No words of mine can describe adequately the splendour and solemnity of this Ceremony inside the Abbey nor the colour and pageantry outside.

4th June.
10.0 a.m.

Complimentary Sitting for Photographs for the Press.

This was an invitation from Miss Pearl Freeman of Piccadilly to a complimentary sitting for photographs for the Press which I accepted.

4th June.
12.45 p.m.

Laying of Wreaths at the Cenotaph.

A touching ceremony was held at the Cenotaph when I had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of the Colony. The ceremony was attended by the whole of the Colonial Military Contingent and by Civil Representatives of the Colonial Territories in the presence of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Wreaths were laid by the Officer Commanding the Contingent and by all Colonial Representatives.

The Colonial Contingent was afterwards inspected by the Secretary of State but I was unable to witness this inspection as I had previously been invited and had accepted an invitation to a Garden Party at Hurlingham Club.

4th June.
3.0 p.m.

Garden Party at Hurlingham Club.

A Garden Party was given at Hurlingham Club by the Chairman and Committee in commemoration of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We had the honour of attending this Party at which some 1,800 guests were present. Most elaborate arrangements were made for the entertainment of the guests and tea was served in the grounds.

The weather was fine and it was a most enjoyable Party with the Coronation flavour.

6th June. Garden Party - Lambeth Palace.

A Garden Party was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Fisher at Lambeth Palace but we were sorry that we were unavoidably prevented from attending.

7th June. Garden Party - Blenheim Palace.

4.0 p.m. A Garden Party which we thoroughly enjoyed was given at Blenheim Palace by the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. There were some 1,300 guests present. Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, the Queen of Tonga and Sir Winston Churchill were among the guests.

Tea was served in the grounds and we were shown over this most interesting old Palace.

7th June. Her Majesty's Theatre.

3.0 p.m.

We received an invitation to be present at Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, London, on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of Moral Re-Armament and in honour of the seventy-fifth birthday of Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman, but were unable to accept because we had already been invited to Blenheim Palace on the same day.

9th June. Coronation Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's Cathedral.

We received an invitation to this Service. It was attended by Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh together with the Queen Mother and other Members of the Royal Family. The Service was impressive and touching. The Sermon was preached by the Lord ~~Bishop~~ Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lesson read by the Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill.

9th June. Cocktail Party - Crown Agents for the Colonies.

We were unavoidably prevented from attending this Party,

9th June. Victoria League - "At Home".

It was with regret that we were unable to attend this At Home.

11th June. Pageant Play - Royal Albert Hall.

We had the honour of being invited to a performance of the Pageant Play "Boy Scout" and this was really a first class show put up by the Boy Scouts themselves. The Hall was packed and there were many visitors from overseas present.

We were the guests of Lord Rowallen, the Chief Scout, and had the honour and the pleasure of meeting him personally. He was most interested in the Falkland Islands and expressed his appreciation of the generous action of the Colony in handing over the old "Discovery" for the training of Sea Scouts,

12th June.
10 p.m.

Evening Reception at Buckingham Palace.

We much regretted that we were unavoidably prevented from attending this Reception,

15th June.

Review of the Fleet at Spithead.

I travelled from London to Southampton by train and on arrival there guests embarked immediately on board the three liners which had been reserved and which were to follow the "Surprise" with the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on board through the lines of the Fleet. I was provided with accommodation in the T.S.S. "Strathnaver" and it is perhaps interesting to note that one of the Guests on board this liner was Admiral Sir William Tennant who is well known in the Falkland Islands.

We had a really wonderful view of the whole Fleet and on occasions passed quite near to the "Surprise" so that Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh could be seen quite clearly waving from the saluting box.

On steaming up and down the lines we saw "John Biscoe" first to port and then to starboard. She looked snug and trim. The crew were assembled on deck standing to attention while the Commander and some Officers could be seen on the Bridge. I waved them a welcome as we passed.

There were hundreds and hundreds of vessels of all types and sizes both in and out of the Review and here was a spectacle long to be remembered.

The Reviewing vessels came to anchor shortly after 5.0 p.m., and at 5.35 p.m., the Fly Past by the Fleet Air Arm took place. Three hundred planes of various types roared over the Fleet in formations at intervals of 10 seconds dipping in salute above the "Surprise". At 10.30 p.m., on the signal from the Queen a brilliant display of lights and floodlighting revealed the large number of vessels taking part in the Review. Lights were extinguished at 10.40 p.m., for about twenty minutes when a Fireworks Display by the Fleet took place. During this Display the whole of the Solent was lit up by rockets and fireworks of the most vivid colours. At the end of the Display lights were switched on again and remained so until midnight when the illumination of the Fleet ended.

Guests were disembarked early on Tuesday morning the 16th June and I arrived back in London just before lunch having thoroughly enjoyed every moment of this wonderful and well organized programme.

The arrangements made by the Admiralty to enable guests to witness the Review and in regard to accommodation and transport left nothing to be desired. Everything possible had been done for the comfort of the guests on board the vessels in which they were being conveyed.

16th June. Reception at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane.

We were honoured by an invitation from the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of the City of Westminster to a reception at the Dorchester Hotel but were unavoidably prevented from attending.

24th June. Pilgrimage to Canterbury.

Facilities were provided by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral for a limited number of visitors from the Commonwealth to visit the Cathedral but were ~~were~~ unable to take advantage of this kind offer.

4th July. Planting of Grove of Oak Trees in Windsor Great Park.

This was a simple but most impressive Ceremony at which I had the honour of planting an oak tree on behalf of the Colony.

A Guard of Honour composed of Girl Guides was formed up at the north end of the Grove and the Queen accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh was met on Her arrival by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

All those Representatives of the Colonial Territories taking part in the Ceremony were then presented to Her Majesty. Immediately afterwards trees were planted by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and all Representatives. The Ceremony of planting having been completed we proceeded to Windsor Castle where we had the honour of being received by Her Majesty and where an excellent tea was provided and served for all those present.

Award of Coronation Medals.

By Command of Her Majesty the Queen medals to be worn in commemoration of Her Majesty's Coronation were forwarded to my wife and myself. We both deeply appreciate the award of these medals and the honour thus conferred upon us.

General.

I should like to take this opportunity of conveying to His Excellency the Governor an expression of my thanks for and appreciation of His Excellency's action in nominating me to represent the Colony and my deep gratitude for the honour and privilege accorded me. My wife who accompanied me to most of the Ceremonies is also deeply sensible of the great honour and most grateful for being privileged to witness the Coronation and attend the various functions.

Throughout the period of the Coronation my thoughts have gone back to the peoples of the Colony and the Dependencies and I have felt proud, firstly because I had been chosen to represent them on this memorable occasion and secondly for the reason that I am a native of that loyal Colony.

Attached is a cutting from the News Chronicle which I have marked with a "X" shewing the position my wife and I occupied inside the Abbey on Coronation Day.

0000000000000000

56, Vista Way,
Kenton, Harrow,
Middlesex.

16th July, 1953.

34

General:

I should like to take this opportunity to convey to His Excellency the Governor an expression of my thanks for and recognition of his Excellency's action in appointing me to command the colony and of deep gratitude for the honor and privilege bestowed on my wife who accompanied me to most of the United States in 1902-1903 and of the first voyage and most gratifying for being privileged to witness the formation and attend the various festivities.

Throughout the period of the formation of the colony, I have been one of the people of the colony and the dependencies and I have felt proud, truly because I had been chosen to represent them on this momentous occasion and secondly for the reason that I am a native of that loyal colony.

Attached is a copy of the letter from the Hon. the Secretary of the Interior dated 11th March 1904, which I have marked with a "B" and which the position my wife and I occupied inside the walls of Fortification No. 1.

JE (26)

for 26 (27) Not an outstanding report but will provide material for Df B to Mr. give a short account.

C
12/8

Inc 12 VIII

10th July, 1904.
Colon, Trinidad
J. H. H. H.

15th August, 53.

Sir,

27. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th of July, 1953, and to convey to you His Excellency's thanks for the account of your activities as Colony representative during the Coronation Celebrations.

2. I am also to inform you that your Savings Bank Account has been credited with the sum of £2. 0. 6d. covering out-of-pocket expenses during the Celebrations.

I am,

Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) C. Campbell

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Major A.I. Fleuret, M.B.E., E.D.,
56, Vista Way,
Kenton,
Harrow,
MIDDLESEX.

Off. The Col. picture of Major D.
Shd. not be wtd. from Notice Board
& placed in envelope as per.
Spoke A.C.S. Miss Biggs is handing to Miss Myles 18/8.

37
Stanley,
31st July, 1953.

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my sincere thanks for
your kindness in sending me the photograph of my son
Major A.I. Fleuret, taken during Coronation in London.

Yours truly,

H. Kelway.

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY.

MA
5/8
Rag