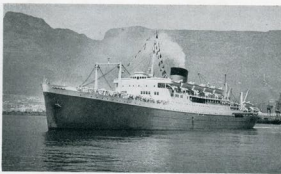




Captain D. W. Sowden with his presentation casket



### Au Revoir to the "Bloemfontein Castle"

The ship pictured leaving Table Bay on her last voyage under the Union-Castle flag

A couple of thousand people waving, tugs hooting, ships' sirens wailing and car horns sounding—such was the send-off Cape Town gave the *Bloemfontein Castle* when she sailed on 25th October for England, and handing over the following month to Greek shipping interests.

Over her public address system as she left the harbour came the strains of *Auf Wiedersehen*, and a remarkable note was reached when a Japanese ship opened up with her public address system and played in response, and even louder, "Auld Lang Syne."

The *Bloemfontein Castle* carried many immigrants to the Union and South West Africa; on her maiden voyage several hundred schoolchildren travelled from Bloemfontein to Durban to explore the ship which bore their city's name; in January, 1953, she rescued passengers and crew from the sinking *Klipfontein* which ran ashore in the Mozambique Channel.

Captain Douglas W. Sowden, R.D., R.N.R., commanded the *Bloemfontein Castle* throughout 1959. He joined the Union-Castle Line as a cadet in 1930, and has served the Company ever since, with the exception of war-time duties in the R.N.R. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre for services in connection with French Resistance in the Mediterranean.

On his last visit to South West Africa, Captain Sowden received the following letter of appreciation from the Principal Immigration Officer of Windhoek:—

Sir,

*It has been made public through the Press that your ship, the Bloemfontein Castle, has changed hands and that this visit is your last at the helm. We, the undersigned, therefore, wish to avail ourselves of the opportunity to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for the co-operative manner in which you have always approached matters pertaining to Immigration.*

*Your attitude, coupled with consideration and service on the part of your staff, has always made the clearance of the Bloemfontein Castle a pleasant duty indeed.*

*Kindly convey these sentiments to all concerned and accept our best wishes for every success in your future career.*

*Mr. C. R. Kruger, former Principal Immigration Officer for South West Africa, writes himself with the sentiments expressed herein.*

*With kindest regards,*

*I remain, Sir,*

*Yours truly,*

D. VOSLOO,  
Principal Immigration Officer,  
South West Africa.  
S. VAN DER WALT,  
Immigration Officer.  
P. J. G. ROOS,  
Immigration Officer.

Captain Sowden was also presented with a casket in which, under glass, reposed a map of the coastline of South West Africa—pin-pointing Walvis Bay—above a large illustration of the *Bloemfontein Castle*, along whose water-line are inset eleven indigenous stones.

### Some of the "Bloemfontein" Officers

*Standing (left to right): M. Butler (2nd Electrician), W. Stephen (Chief Engineer), S. McGregor (Purser's Clerk), P. Henderson (Purser), Dr. D. Fairley (Surgeon), Captain D. W. Sowden, M. Whitford (2nd Radio Officer), R. Munro (Purser's Clerk), H. Sayers (Purser's Clerk), P. Jackson (3rd Officer), A. Stewart (Cape Town Office), C. Rea (2nd Officer), M. Bailey (Senior Third Engineer). Seated (left to right): M. Gimey (Children's Hostess), T. Allan (Chief Officer), M. Morrissey (Nursing Sister)*

