



Come again, Cape tells QE2

Sir,

It is no exaggeration to say that the whole population of Cape Town was on its toes the day before the much-publicised call of QE2. The tension was heightened considerably by the fact that a strong south-easter was blowing, and showed no signs of abating. At times it gusted up to 53 miles per hour. The sages of dockland muttered to themselves "She'll never dock in this," but they reckoned without the skill of Capt. W. Rowe, senior pilot in Table Bay Harbour, who had been elected to dock the ship.

He executed a brilliant piece of manoeuvring, bringing the ship alongside under very difficult conditions. Passengers, fearing disruption of their sightseeing arrangements, must have heaved sighs of relief when she was safely moored.

As is customary when a large liner arrives for the first time in Cape Town, the local (and not-so-local) populace flocked to the docks. Special arrangements had to be made by the traffic department to keep the mountainside motorways clear leading into town, and to prevent cars from stopping and watching the docking manoeuvre. It happened just as business traffic was streaming in.

Understandably, the issue of permits to visit the ship was strictly limited, but those who were fortunate enough to get on board were impressed by the modern decor.

Fortunately the wind died away about halfway through the vessel's stay and the weatherman regained his stripes by providing ideal conditions for her departure. She was escorted out into the bay by a large number of small craft which gave her the traditional farewell, coupled with the hope that we shall see this great lady in Cape Town again sometime in the future.

Capt. A. O. WILKINS,
Cayzer, Irvine SA (Pty) Ltd.,
Cape Town.

Good news of Suzanne Jones

Sir,

There have been many stories and photographs of Suzanne Jones, the five-year-old Welsh girl who went out to South Africa for a heart operation by Dr. Barnard. I am sure there are many in the company, particularly those serving in *Windsor Castle* and *Pendennis Castle*, who will be interested to have news of little Suzanne's progress.

I had a letter this Christmas from Mrs. Jones, Suzanne's mother, and she asked me to pass on her thanks to all those in our company who played some part in looking after Suzanne. She tells me Suzanne is well

■ Above: QE2 spent November 10 to 12 in Cape Town. Here, SA Vaal (30,212 tons) approaches F Berth, next to the 65,863-ton Cunarder, the camera angle playing tricks with their relative sizes.

and getting stronger every day and that she is putting on weight. She is now able to join in games with her little sister and do all that she can do. As up to now she has had to lead a life sheltered from all excitement or exertion this really is a wonderful change. Mrs. Jones has had the misfortune to break an ankle, but in spite of this she was looking forward to the happiest Christmas ever with her two children.

SYDNEY SMITH,
Public relations,
Cayzer House,



■ Recent reunion for Suzanne Jones (right) with parents Allan and Carol and sister Eleanor, when *Pendennis Castle* docked in Southampton. With them: Capt. Harold Charnley. Picture: Press Association.