



On her last voyage a great effort was made by the ship's company of Rhodesia Castle to present her at her best. She is pictured by Quartermaster A. Szeithauer during her farewell call at Mombasa

RHODESIA CASTLE...

THIS IS YOUR LIFE

Official No.:	184515
Signal Letters:	G.M.G.Q.
Deadweight tonnage:	10,693
Nett tonnage:	9,419.95
Gross tonnage:	17,038.29
Length overall:	576 feet
Breadth:	74 feet
Maximum loaded draught:	28 feet 02 inches

S.S. *RHODESIA CASTLE* had her beginnings at the Belfast yard of Harland & Wolff, where her keel was laid on 9th March, 1950. She was launched on 5th April, 1951 and sailed from London on her Maiden Voyage in the Round Africa Service, under the command of Captain J. M. Rayner, R.D., R.N.R., on 19th October, 1951.

On Voyage 70—destined to be her last under the B. & C. flag—a commemorative brochure was printed on board by ship's printer W. T. Williams. We glean therefrom that on arrival in London on 19th April *Rhodesia Castle* had steamed a total distance of 1,080,469 nautical miles and had carried nearly 75,000 passengers, including 13 stowaways.

Apart from two cruises to Malaga, Gibraltar, Casablanca and Lisbon in July and August, 1958, *Rhodesia Castle* sailed on the Round Africa run until withdrawn for a major refit in August, 1960. The accommodation on "A" Deck

was stripped out and rebuilt, the public rooms were restyled and refurbished, air conditioning machinery was installed and all the accommodation generally was redecorated. Thereafter the vessel was in service on the London-Durban-London schedule, except for an occasional Round Africa voyage.

Many will regret the departure of *Rhodesia Castle* from the fleet, not least those who served in her, among whom were Engine Room Storekeeper E. Philpott who completed all 70 voyages, Assistant Barman R. Packham who completed all voyages except Nos. 3 and 4, and Boatswain F. Rose who, in addition to several other voyages, sailed on the first and last.

The fate of *Rhodesia Castle*, and her sister-ship *Kenya Castle*, is not known at the time of going to press.