

LEADING UP TO THE INAUGURATION

1948

- 14 March VT-CQS (later named Mogul Princess) first of three Lockheed L-749 Constellation airliners arrived at London Airport on delivery flight from Burbank to Bombay via New York, Azores, London and Cairo. Captain K.R. Gazdar was in command. This airliner left London on 15 March and arrived at Santa Cruz Airport, Bombay the following day.
- 22 March VT-CQR (later named Rajput Princess) second of the Constellations arrived at London Airport on delivery flight from Burbank to Bombay via New York, London and Cairo. Captain K. Vishvanath was in command. This airliner left London on 24 March and arrived at Bombay the following day.
- 11 April VT-CQR commanded by Captain A.C. Gazdar, Operations Manager of Air-India International Ltd., left Bombay on the first proving flight over the route Bombay-Cairo-Geneva-London. Arrival at London Airport was on 15 April. The return flight was made 21-22 April.
- 22 April VT-CQP (later named Malabar Princess) third of the Constellations, commanded by Squadron Leader Kenneth Bhore, Assistant General Manager of Air-India International Ltd., arrived at London Airport on delivery flight from Burbank to Bombay via New York, Gander, London and Cairo. The airliner left London on 24 April and arrived at Bombay on 25 April.
- 3 May VT-CQR named 'Rajput Princess', commanded by Captain K. Vishvanath, visited Delhi. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, and prominent personages in Delhi flew over the city in the airliner.
- 9 May 'Rajput Princess', commanded by Captain K. Vishvanath, arrived at London Airport on the second proving flight over the route. Departure from Bombay was on 8 May. Mr. J.R.D. Tata, Mr. B.W. Figgins and Mr. S.K. Kooka, respectively Chairman, General Manager and Traffic Manager of Air-India International Ltd., were on board. Also travelling on the airliner were Mr. M.R. Masani Indian Ambassador to Brazil and his wife. Miss Patricia O'Neal was the air hostess - this was the first occasion on which an Air-India International air hostess had made the flight from India to Britain.
- 11 May 'Rajput Princess' made demonstration flights from London Airport carrying representatives of the press.
- 13-18 May 'Rajput Princess' made the second eastbound proving flight over the London-Geneva-Cairo-Bombay route.

29/9/34 L'foot - Plymouth + B'ham - Lewis service

1/11/34 Blunye - Ldn altered L'foot in place of M'chesht + B'ham.

RAS contract ended 30/11/34 Hillman then took over (Ldn - Lws - Bel
Blas - 1/12/34.

2/12/35 RAS again awarded contract.

Direct service cutting out Belfast began 2/5/38.

~~Was stopped service: RAS service res. 6/5/40.~~

~~4/9/41 new air mail service L'foot - Belfast.~~

1/2/35 B + West Coast mails L'foot - 1874.

~~1/11/35 1st service L'foot - 1874 United Kingdom.~~