

SPECIAL ISSUE

# L'ANSALDO

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ed ai pensionati



QUINDICINALE DEI DIPENDENTI DELL'ANSALDO S.A.



GENOVA, 15 APRILE 1956

Spedizione in abbonamento postale  
Gruppo secondo



April 8th, 12 o'clock: M/s «Gripsholm» slides down into the waters of the Ansaldo Shipyard in Genoa-Sestri.







# Accommodation for 844 passengers

The new Swedish motorliner Gripsholm has the following main features: length overall 192,32 m; length between perpendiculars 167,70 m; breadth moulded 24,90 m; depth to Verandah Deck 20,44 m; Gross Register Tonnage, abt. 24,000 T; propelling machinery output 16,200 S. H. P.; displacement about 21,000 Tons; contract speed 19 knots.

She is the first «de-luxe» vessel only for passenger service built by the Italian Shipyards for foreign Owners after the war. In Summer months she will be employed for North Atlantic Service (Göteborg - New York in less than 8 days), and in the other months of the year for Tropical Cruises.

The ship has steel hull and her nine decks are denominated as follows: Bridge Deck, Sun Deck, Verandah Deck, Upper Deck, Main Deck, A.B.C.D. Decks. Transversally, she is subdivided by 10 watertight transverse bulkheads ensuring the prescribed buoyancy even in case of flooding of two contiguous compartments. The hull is specially strengthened for navigation in ice.

When at sea, the «Gripsholm» will appear as a huge yacht with very raked clipper stem, cruiser stern, two funnels, two masts with foldable tops and standard rigging.

The ship is fitted with two propellers driven by two Gö-

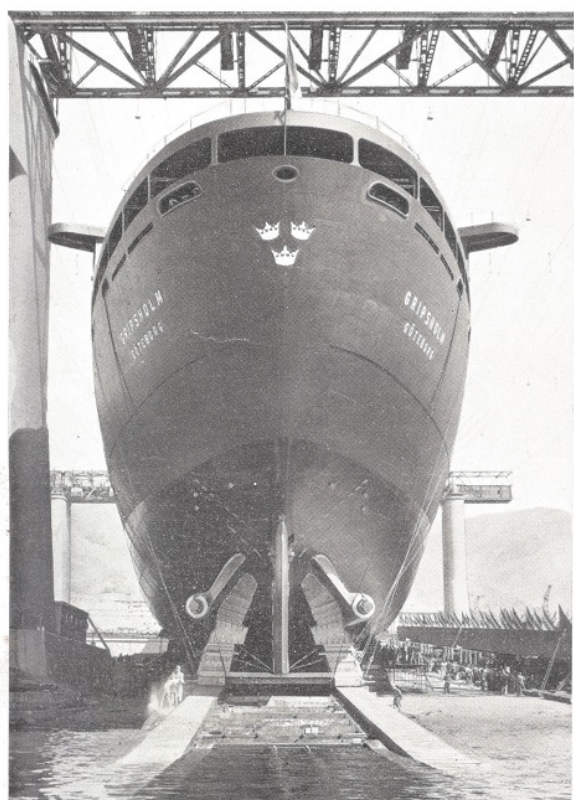
taverken engines burning boiler oil. Each engine has 9 cylinders with 760 mm bore and 1500 mm stroke. The engines can develop, aggregate, 16,200 SHP at 112 r. p. m. but at forced running it will be possible to reach a higher power, i. e.: 18,600 SHP at 117 r. p. m.

Engines of this type are about 16 m long and 8 m high. The Diesel engines for the generating sets are supplied by the Ansaldo Engineering Works.

Particular care has been given to the appointment of all accommodation in consideration of the service the vessel is intended for, i. e. the trade between Sweden and the United States (first class and tourist class cabins), and the peculiar conditions to be met in tropical cruises (single class).

As customary for North Atlantic liners, the dining rooms are located on the lower decks. On A-deck the 1st and Tourist Class Dining Rooms are arranged from side to side, the first Class saloon covering an area of abt. 300 sq.m. and the other abt. 425 sq.m. The Auditorium, with sitting capacity for 220 persons, is located on the same deck and occupies an area of approx. 155 sq.m.

Two large stairways (one from D-Deck and the other from B-Deck) give passengers admittance to Sun-Deck as



well as, of course, to all intermediate decks. On Main-Deck cabins are located for 100 1st Class passengers (46 being interchangeable cabins) and for 212 Tourist Class passengers.

On Upper Deck there are 114 First Class cabins and 120 Tourist Class cabins as well as Children's Playroom, Barber Shop and Beauty Parlour. The remaining deck space aft (abt. 700 sq.m.), forms a spacious open promenade. On the deck next above (Verandah Deck) there are the Public rooms for First and Tourist Class passengers, viz: the Card Rooms, Libraries, a large Smoking Room, as well as two spacious Verandahs at sides and a Gallery at fore end. The Main Lounge arrang-

ed in the central part, covers a surface of 460 sq.m.

The interior decoration work has been carefully studied by skilled architects and in point of elegance and comfort will conform to that excellent standard for which the liners Andrea Doria and Cristoforo Colombo, lately built in the same Shipyards of Sestri, have gained a worldwide renown. All accommodation will be airconditioned. A splendid swimming pool is arranged on D-Deck and an open swimming pool on Upper Deck.

The Gripsholm is one of the first large passenger ships provided with a controllable fin type Denny Brown stabilizer of such reliability and efficiency that the troubles brought about by rolling and

pitching will be eliminated. The ship will also be fitted with two «Raytheon» Radar indicator units having 16 inch. panoramic screen ensuring the safest services.

The Gripsholm can accommodate 214 First Class passengers and 630 Tourist Class passengers, in total 844 persons. The full number of crew will be 365 persons. Deadweight includes: 1450 T. fuel oil in tanks; 1450 T. fresh water; 144 T. lubricating oil; 894 T. merchandise (passenger baggage).

Special arrangements have been made in holds and cargo 'tween decks for carrying approximately 30 motor cars.

For provision store rooms, the refrigerated spaces are calculated to be about 700 m<sup>3</sup> and 300 m<sup>3</sup> of ordinary store rooms.





# ***“Thy name is Gripsholm”***

**O**n Sunday 8th April, at the Ansaldo Shipyard of Genova - Sestri, the Swedish liner Gripsholm was launched on those very same slipways from which the colossuses of all times, such as the liners « Duilio », « Rex », « Andrea Doria » and « Cristoforo Colombo » and the battleships « Littorio » and « Impero », have taken the sea.

The event, of high significance in itself, was rendered more solemn by the presence of H.R.H. the Princess Margaretha of Sweden. The august Guest was accompanied by

her lady in waiting Miss Brita Cederström. The Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Martino, and the Swedish Ambassador in Rome, Baron Beck-Friis, were also present.

The imposing mass of the red lead coated ship which throned at the Yard's center was still enlivened by the first spring sun. The wide network of cable-way cranes supported on 8 very high pylons, was dressed with flags of the rainbow colours: the white, red and green colours of the national flag, the yellow and blue colours of the Swedish

flag, the blue encircled golden crowns of the « Svenska Amerika Linien », the S. George Cross on the Genoa flag, the blue strips of the Ansaldo's flag.

At 11.30 Princess Margaretha entered the yard through the entrance of honour, greeted by the cheers of the throng that crowded the shipyard, the adjoining streets and the windows of the surrounding houses.

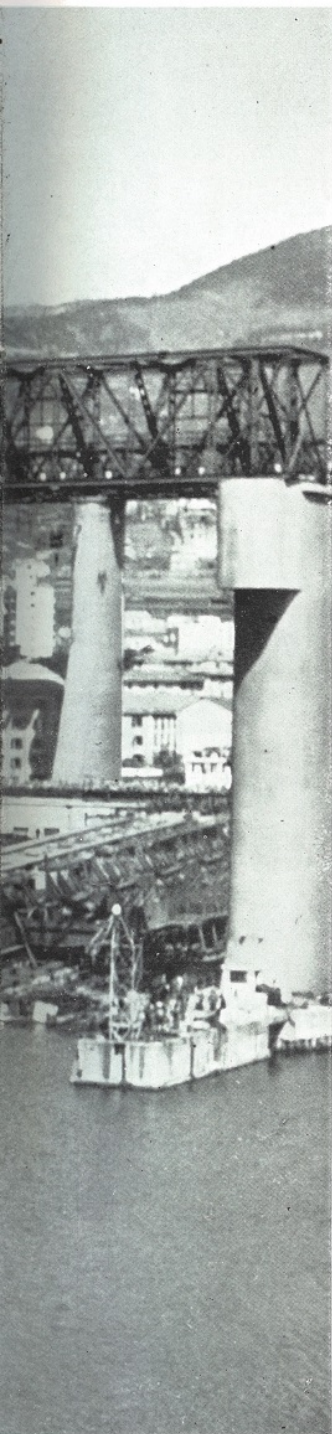
Escorted by Minister Martino, the illustrious Guest, reviewed a guard of honour of the 157th Infantry Regi-

ment, then, having at her side the Ansaldo President, Avv. De Barbieri, She reached the Royal Tribune purposely erected in front of the ship. A nice girl, the daughter of a shipyard employee, offered H.R.H. a bunch of white roses.

On the Tribune of honour the Princess was surrounded by a large number of Authorities and amongst them we have noted Count Sigvard Bernadotte, uncle of the Princess, the Swedish Consul General in Italy, Mr. Elow Kihlgren, the Swedish Consul in Genova Mr. Berg, the

Svenska Amerika Linien Chairman, Mr. Tor Erland J. Broström and his wife, the Managing Director Mr. Erik Wijk and his wife, the Directors Messrs. Marcus Wallenberg and Torsten Hernod, the Technical Director E. Th. Christiansson, the Minister Martino, the Genova Prefect Mr. Vicari, the Mayor of Genova Avv. Pertusio, the Garrison Commander Gen. Magliano, the Attorney General of the Republic Avv. Giglio, the Province President Avv. Maggio, the President of the Harbour Consortium Gen. Ruf-





Wirén, the Chief of the Indonesian Mission, Major Martadinata (Ansaldo is presently building a set of Patrol Vessels for Indonesia), the Chief of the Venezuelan Commission, Cap. Ferrer (Ansaldo is also building six destroyers for Venezuela) and the Chief of the Indian Commission Mr. Johri (Ansaldo has a set of locomotives under construction for India).

In addition to President De Barbieri previously mentioned, the Ansaldo Co. was represented by the Vice President Comm. Gennaro, the Managing Director Dr. Ing. Rosini, the General Manager Dr. Ing. Lombardi, the Deputy General Manager Dr. Ing. De Vito, the Central Commercial Managers Dr. Ing. Casaccia, Dr. Ing. Rougier and Dr. Ing. Carnevale, and the Shipyard Manager Dr. Ing. Cristofori.

The launching ceremony commenced with the benediction of the vessel, this rite being performed by the Genoa Auxiliary Bishop Mons. Chiocca. Immediately afterwards, the Ansaldo's President accompanied the august Godmother to the control table where the Princess, before cutting the thin ribbon with the small silver axe handed to her by Ing. Cristofori, uttered with a faint voice the following words:

«Thy name is Gripsholm. Might thou honour Italy, the land where thou wert built, might thou serve Sweden and gloriously carry the blue and yellow flag all over the oceans!».

Then the axe stroke which closes the control circuit; the champagne bottle crashes against the bow. A moment of complete silence. The big ship begins to slide along the slipways into the sea to receive the embrace of the blue waves. Now she is afloat in the middle of the wetdock while her speed is slackened by 300 tons of launching chains the noise of which is surpassed by the frantic cheers of the applauding people. The sirens emit loud sounds while on board the new vessel the pigeons, set at liberty, take the flight towards the sky as a good omen.

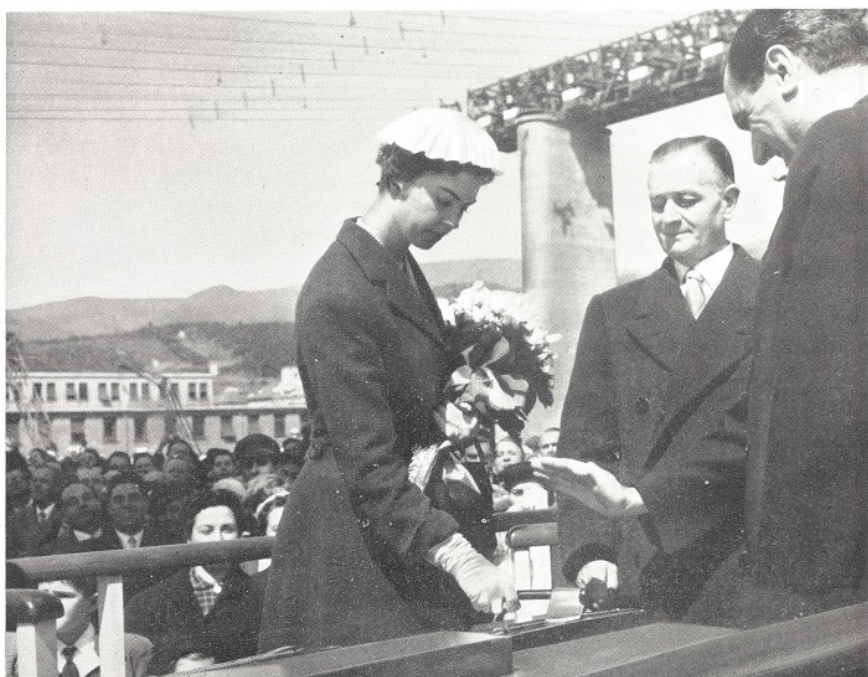
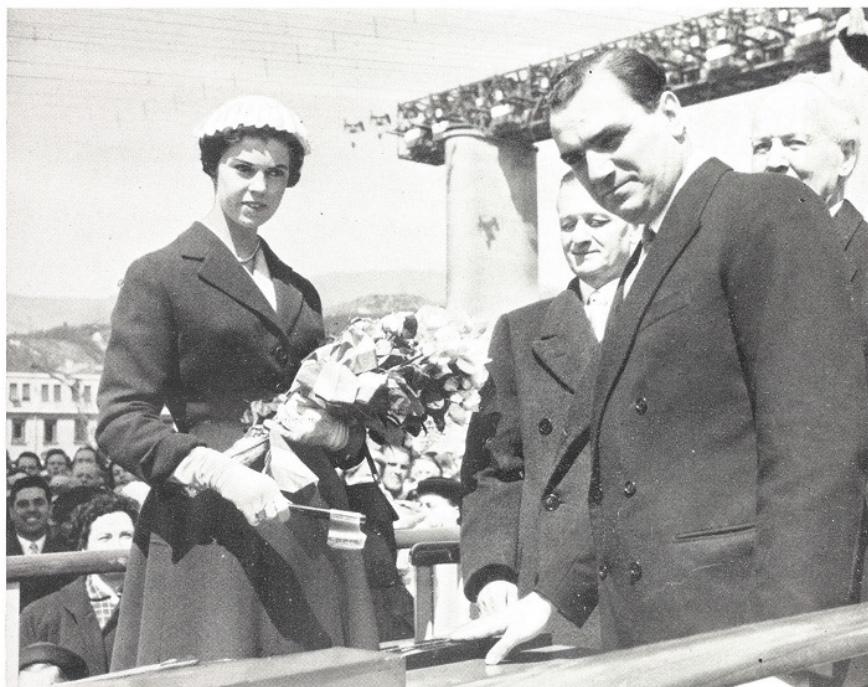
The Princess smiles.

But this moment of solemn silence, which betrays a real «suspense» of all souls, this moment which is always the same and yet somewhat different at every launching, which

fini, the Harbour Master Gen. Carnino, the President of the Genova University Prof. Certei, the President of the Industrialists Association Dr. Vaccari, the President of the Chamber of Commerce Prof. Trombetta, the President of the Owners Association Mr. Fassio, the President of Finmeccanica Dr. Ing. Lojaccono and the President of «Finmare» Dr. F. Manzitti.

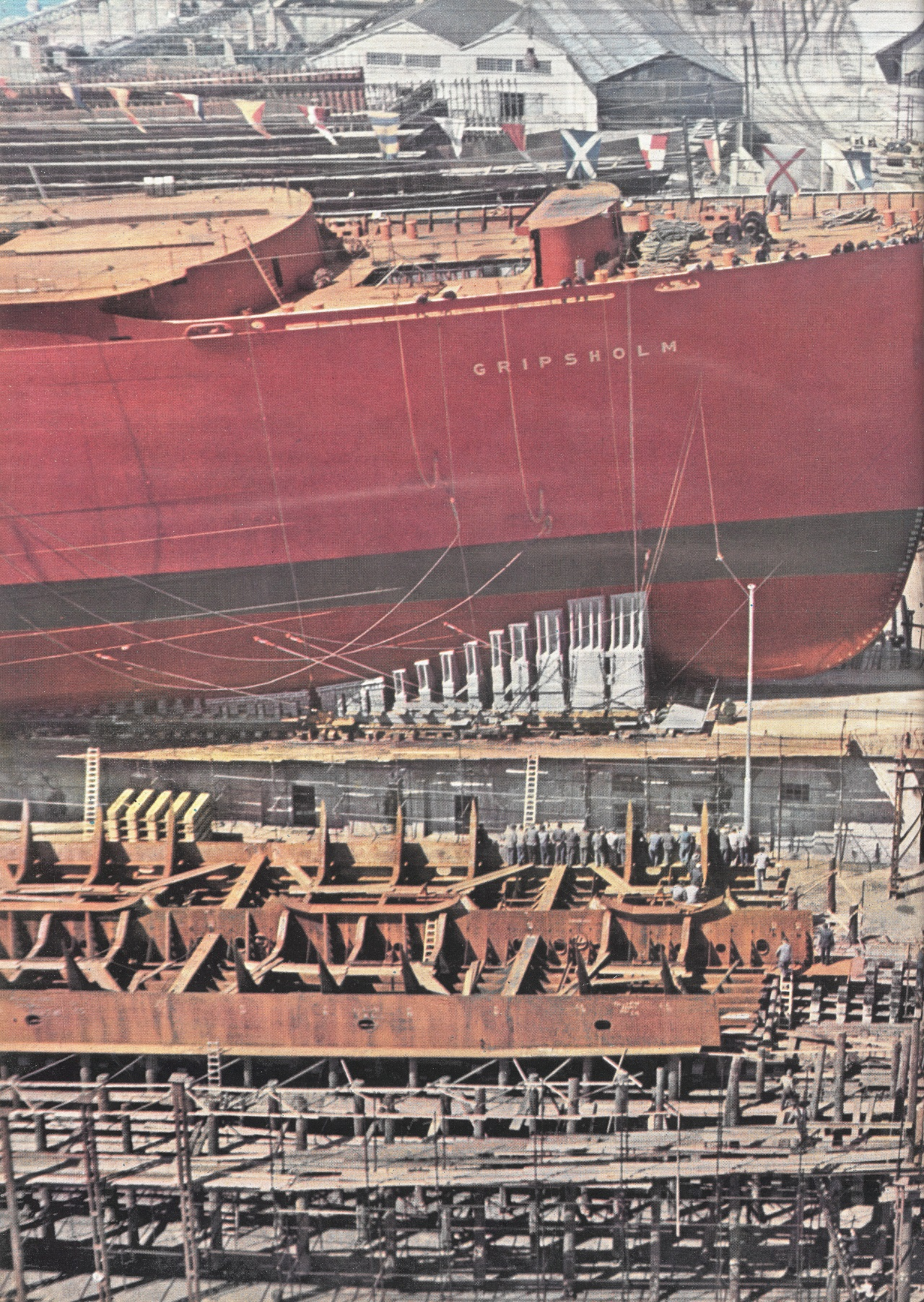
Amongst the Guests that had taken place in the Tribune of Honour, we have noted besides the Chief of the Swedish Commission Mr. P.O.

Princess Margaretha, with a small silver hatchet, deals a blow which causes the vessel to slide along the slipways. At her side there are the Svenska Amerika Linien's President, Mister Broström, the Ansaldo's President, Avv. De Barbieri and the Manager of the Shipyard, Dr. Ing. Cristofori



**Im..."**













may be rethorical and is, instead, true and moving, is worth being retained a little longer here on the paper. It is a deep emotion difficult to be exactly defined but which makes one's heart throb and never fails to be present in such circumstances. Perhaps this is the expression of that eternal joy, fear, hope and tenderness which one feels in front of something coming into existence and upon which the man, through toil and intelligence, has bestowed a spirit of new life, something linking, through the human work, the past to the future.

Or perhaps it arises, although unconsciously, from the emotion caused by the pragmatic and transient instant when the Builders calcu-

lations (a mere theory of figures and lines up to then) become materialized.

After the launching other bunches of flowers were offered to H.R.H. namely by the Ansaldo's President in the name of the Shipyard Workers, by Miss Marisa Sommella in the name of the « Moto Club Cral Ansaldo » and by Fernando Vasquez, President of « Moto Club di Mandello Lario ». The Princess gained then, by the lift, what we may call « the bird's eye view balcony » of the yard, that is the 60 m high cableway pylons which command a splendid panorama over the whole Genoa Gulf.

The Genoese day of the august Guest terminated with an official luncheon at the

Royal Palace. At the end of this banquet, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Martino pronounced an address saying:

« The ceremony which has taken place to-day at the Ansaldo Shipyard is a highly significative expression of the spirit of sympathy and friendship entertained by Italy for the Great Scandinavian Country ».

Our President delivered subsequently the following address:

« Royal Highness, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, It's a great honour for the Ansaldo Society to extend to you our welcome on this solemn occasion.

For the first time, an Italian shipyard has been given the



On the left: Three different aspects of the solemn launching ceremony at the Ansaldo Shipyard of Genova Sestri. Below: Immediately after the launching the Princess congratulates the Ansaldo's President Avv. De Barbieri.







responsibility for the construction of such a big and fine vessel for Swedish Ship-owners.

Shipowners who continue with so great capacity and inspired initiative the illustrious traditions of the Vikings of the « long ships » .

The honour of the presence, as sponsor, of Her Royal Highness behoves us to operate in a manner that this ship will be in every way worthy of your daring seaman's tradition and of the long Italian history as Builders. « Grips-holm », go proud through the world, flying the glorious Swedish flag, and a little of our spirit .

The fortunate encounter between people united by common love for work brought to life a cordial and effectual cooperation, which we all hope will prove fruitful and durable.

Sincerely convinced our cooperation represents a fitting contribution to the development and continuation of ever better relations between my Country and the great Swedish Nation, in the name of Ansaldo and of all Italian working people, I beg you to make a respectful toast in honour of Her Royal Highness the Princess ».

After him, the Swedish Ambassador has pronounced some words, and then also Mr. Broström, Chairman of the Svenska Amerika Linien, has pointed out how the works

were adjudicated to Messrs. Ansaldo after it was found that such firm could ensure the severe technical guaranties which are required by the Swedish Owners and how the realization of such programme has overcome any expectation, both as far as the technical characteristics and the esthetic characteristics are concerned, thus confirming the high cleverness of the Italian Ship-builders .

During the reception, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Martino has delivered high Italian decorations to Messrs. Tor Erland J. Broström, E. T. Christiansson and Baron Goran Von Essen, respectively Chairman, Technical Director and Member of the Board of the Svenska Amerika Linien. High Swedish decorations were delivered to the President of Ansaldo Avv. De Barbieri, the Managing Director Dr. Ing. Rosini and to Marquis Valdetaro of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs .

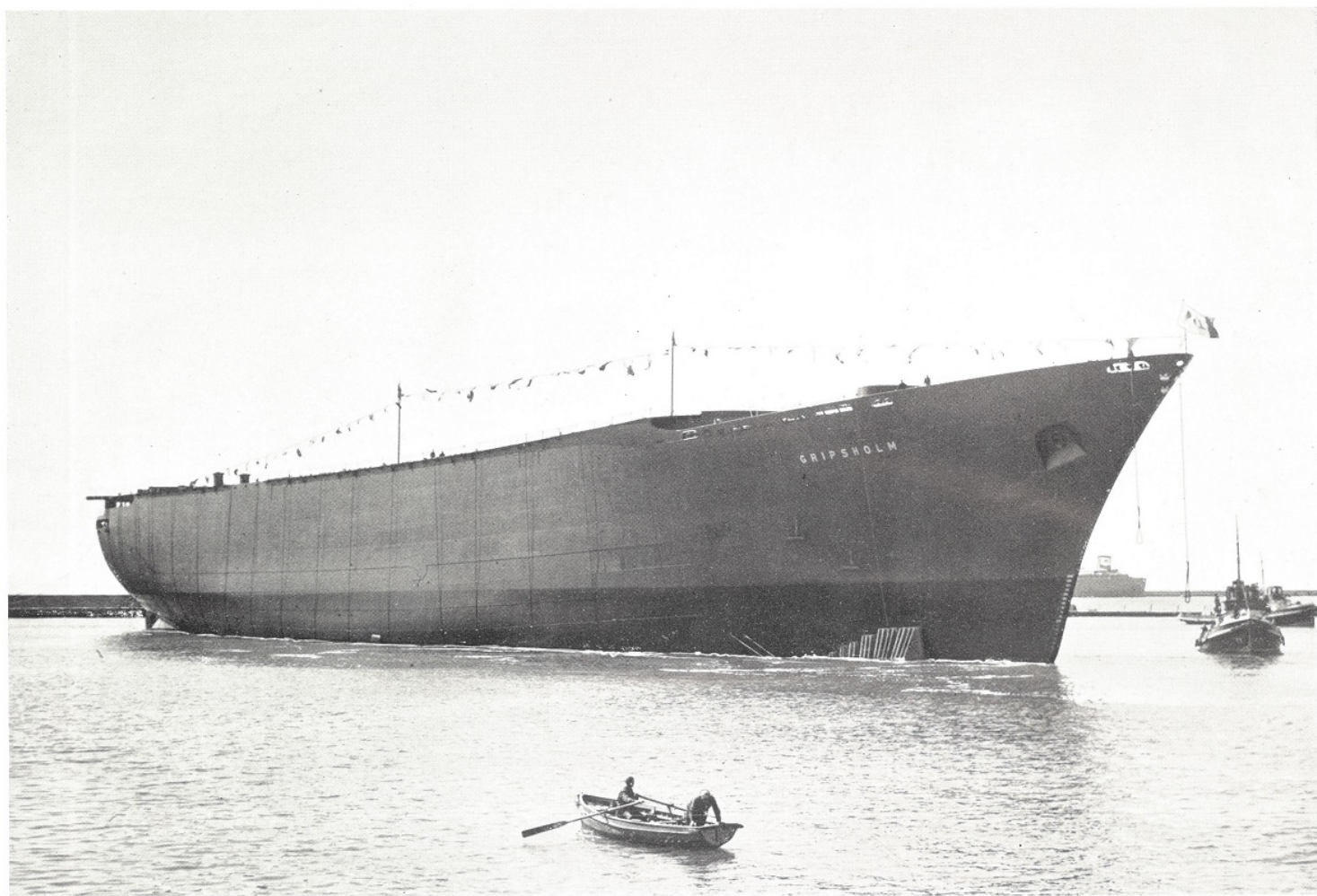
Right away after the lunching, Mr. Walter L. Green, President and Chairman of the Board of the American Bureau of Shipping has sent to the Managing Director of Ansaldo the following cable:

*« You and your staff merit highest commendation in launching splendid vessel Gripsholm less than eleven months after laying keel stop American Bureau of Shipping extends hearty congratulations ».*

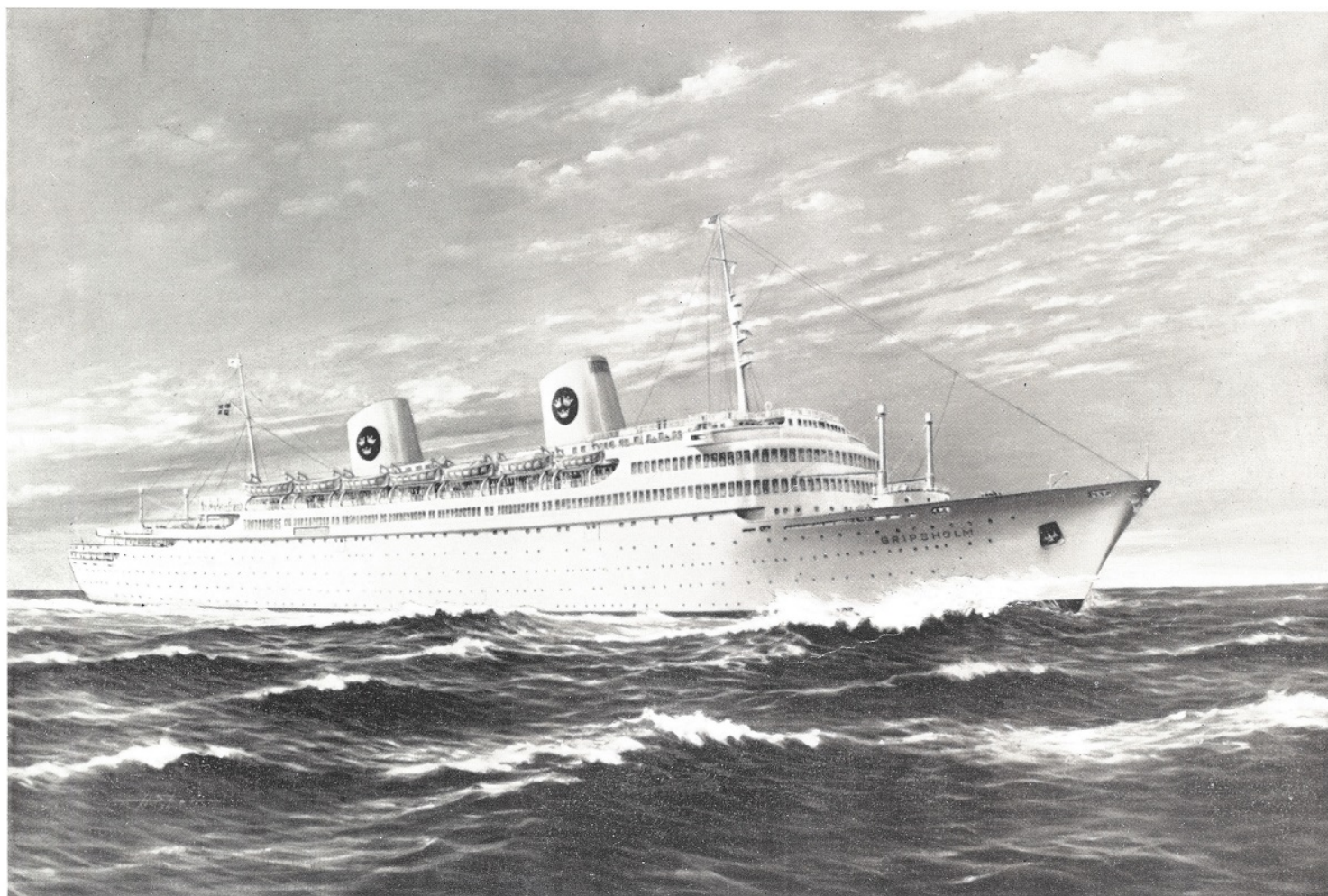
After the launching ceremony, the Princess sat down to a luncheon of honour offered by the Ansaldo Co. in the saloons of the former Royal Palace of Genoa. At the Princess right, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gaetano Martino.



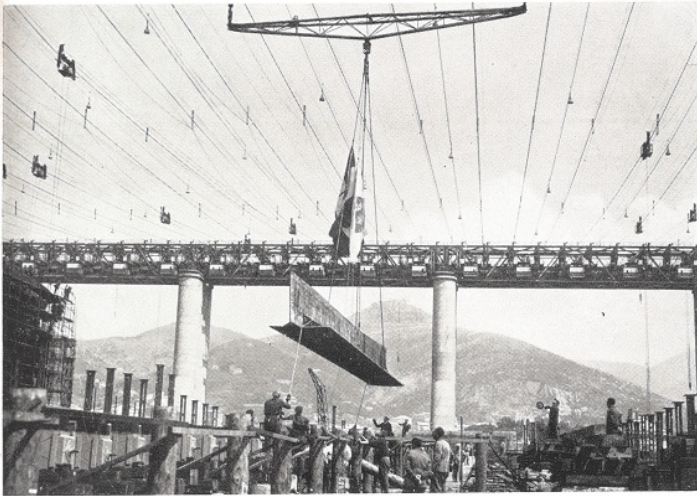




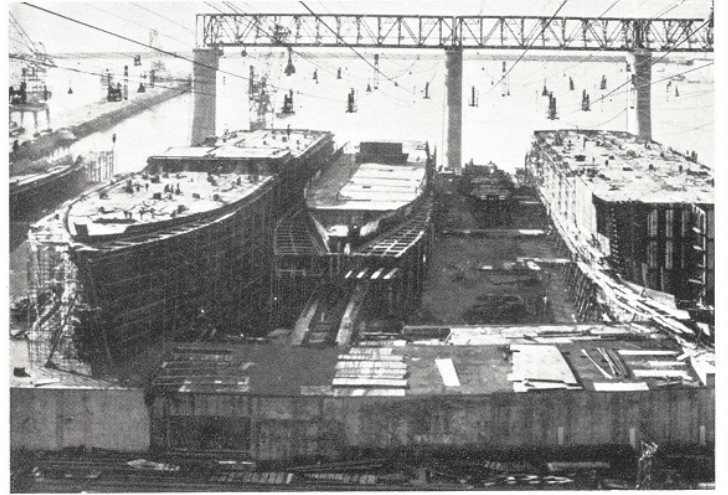
The « Gripsholm » (above) as she appeared as soon as launched and (below) as she will appear on her delivery to the Owners.



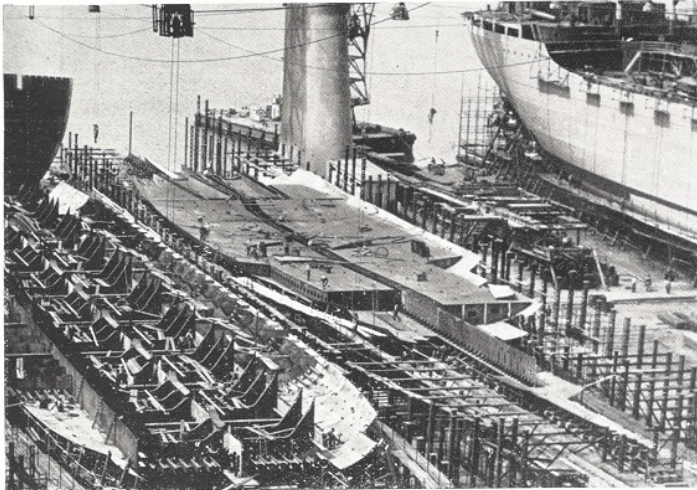




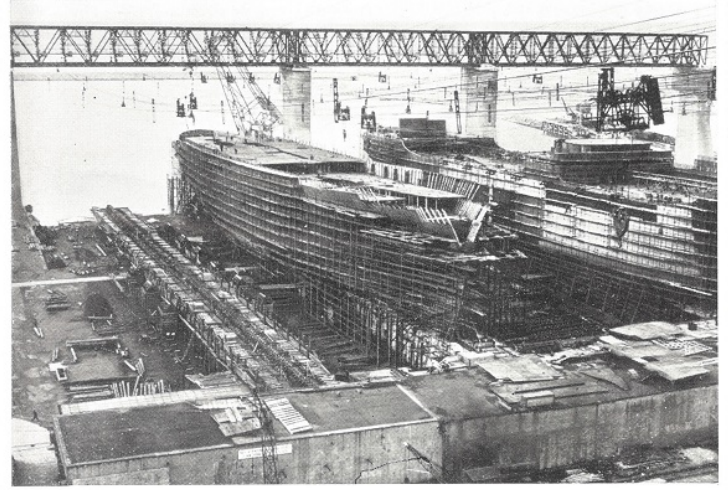
May 10th., 1955: laying down of the keel



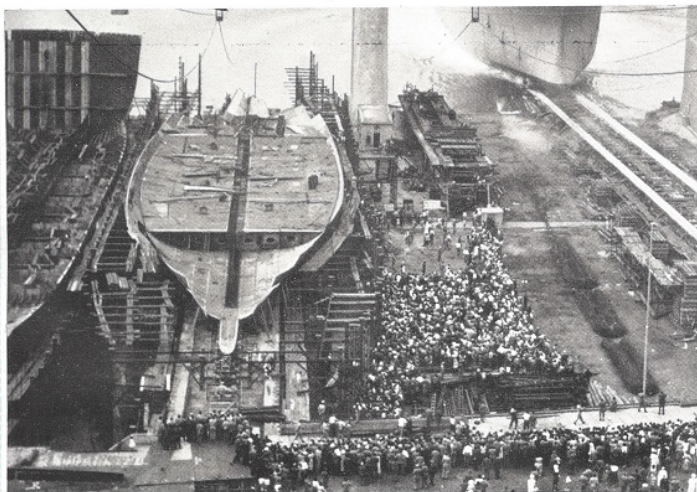
November 1955



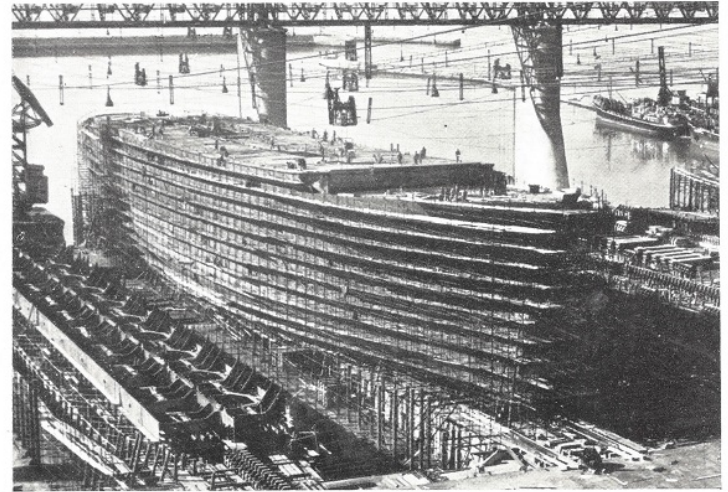
June 1955



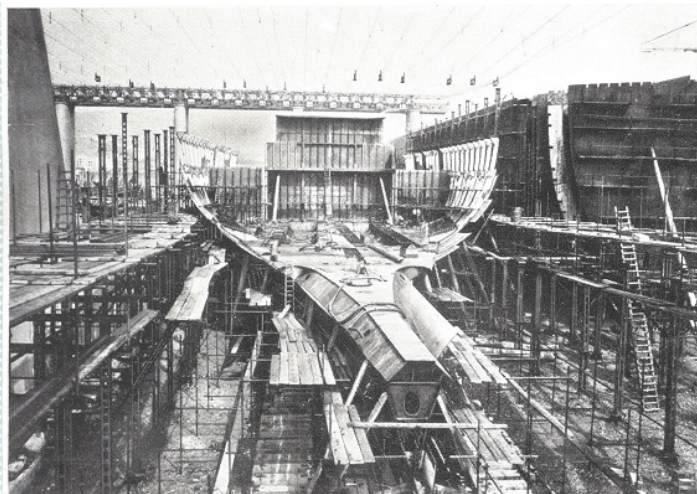
February 1956



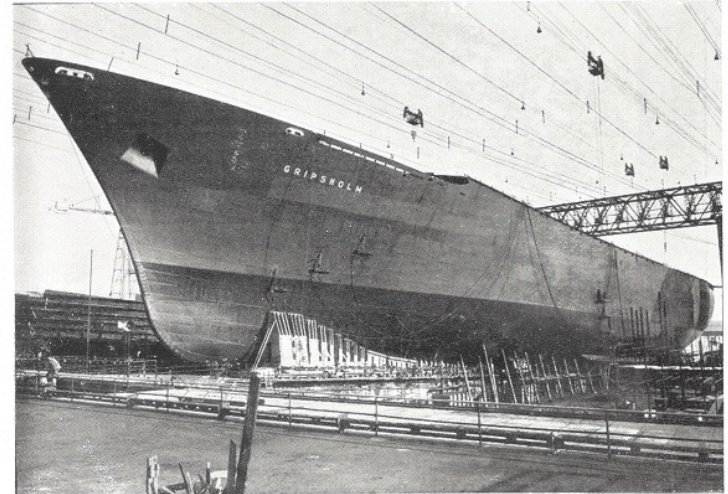
July 1955



March 1956



September 1955



April 8 th., 1956: the launching





# L'ANSALDINO



H.R.H. Princess Margaretha is on the royal tribune, while the last preparations are being made for the launching.