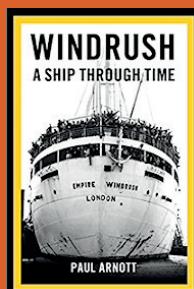


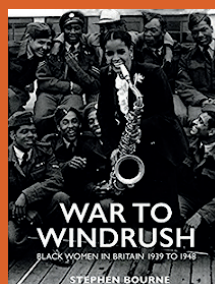
Further Reading



Windrush – A Ship Through Time

Paul Arnott

'Arnott paints a rich portrait of life on board the cruiser in its heyday, where passengers were fed pancakes with cranberry sauce and sardellenwurst — pork sausage meat to which anchovies had been added, and it's past as a propaganda tool of the Nazi system.



War to Windrush

Black Women in Britain 1939–1948
Stephen Bourne

Stephen's interest in documenting the experiences of black citizens on the home front and in the armed services began with the stories Aunt Esther told him. He also learned from Aunt Esther the importance of first-hand testimony which has become a feature of all his books. In spite of racism, black people in Britain and from across the Empire contributed to the war effort.

Research

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/national-maritime-museum>

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Research & resource created
by Veronica McKenzie



Ships, Ports & Passengers

Migration To England 1942–1962



RMS Bayano

The arrival of the Empire Windrush ship in 1948 is widely known as the beginning of the mass migration of Caribbean immigrants to the UK. However, the Windrush was not the only ship carrying passengers from the Caribbean during that period, nor the first. This resource uncovers the other boats that transported Caribbean passengers to the UK between 1942 and 1962. Their passenger lists, and the experiences of some of the passengers, enables us to learn more about the people who transformed the UK and shaped a whole generation.



Tony Anthony

Tony Anthony was born in Jamaica in 1936. After hearing about the call to come to help rebuild the UK after the war, he boarded the SS Origa, arriving at Southampton May 13th 1956. His Uncle who was already in the UK sent him the ticket. He was 20 years old.

TONY'S STORY

I was very excited... but very scared. You know to get on the boat you know. I was very scared. But then after a while I settled in and was feeling at home so to speak... We didn't really have parties. I can't remember if we had any parties, but we were free to go on that we were free you know.

We had quite a lot of passengers and the staff, the sailors were quite friendly.

...it was [a] bunk bed you know. Sometimes you have like, you might be here and you know another above you... I met a couple of guys yeah. I can't remember their names right now, it's a long time ago...



Arrived southampton 1956

TONY'S ROUTE

KINGSTON, PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD, BERMUDA, SOUTHAMPTON

What is your own Windrush connection?

How many Caribbean islands can you name?

What can we learn from the Windrush generation?

What can Tony and Gretta's experience of migration to the UK by ship, teach us?

GRETTA

'They had games and things we used to play. We played cards and we played the.....deck tennis or whatever it was. Yeah plenty to keep us busy. It was only a small ship I discovered. At the time, it seemed like a huge ocean going liner. But it was quite small really, especially when compared with Queens of the sea. Queen Elizabeth and those that came afterwards'.

TONY

'With the food time, they used to have different colors. Like yellow tickets. I think my our ticket was yellow ... Therefore people in a certain section have a certain color.

I think England is probably one of the best places to live... And that makes sense.'

How much was the fare for Gretta's journey?



Gretta Barrow-Reid

Gretta Barrow was born in Trinidad in 1937. Her sister and brother clubbed together to buy her ticket to the UK, where she travelled to try out for the Royal Academy of Music. She boarded the *SS Ariguani*, arriving at Avonmouth, Bristol in 1956. She was offered a place at the Royal College of Music, and later performed in venues such as Wigmore Hall and Purcell Rooms and Queen Elizabeth Hall South Bank.

Gretta's Story

I came here as a music student. I play the piano. I started it when I was three. My mother taught me. She had studied in England herself. And then she went home. She got married. She had 4 children and I am the eldest. I was very keen to come until I actually boarded the ship and set off. Then I didn't want to come anymore. I wanted to go back home. But I met a few people from my country, Trinidad. And it was all right coming up, took a long time – two and a half weeks. And we docked in Avonmouth and I got a train from Bristol to come up to London. I was met by the British Council. They took me to their hostel in Earls Court. And I stayed in Earls Court for a couple of weeks and I went to the academy and then played my entrance exam and got in.

Gretta's Route

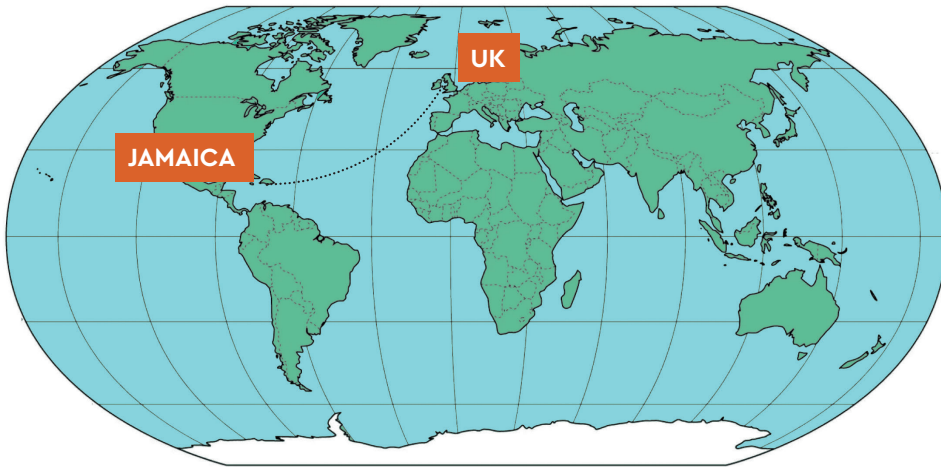
TRINIDAD TO BRISTOL

Whilst men could pay approximately twenty eight pounds, to bunk down in a dormitory room, female passengers had to pay almost double the fare as they were only allowed to travel in a cabin.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s numerous ships crossed from the Caribbean to the UK.

Two other ships arrived in the UK from the Caribbean before HMT *Windrush*. These were the *Ormonde* arriving on the 31 March 1947, and the *Almanzora* arriving on the 21 December 1947. They carried mostly ex servicemen and women who had fought in WWII.

From Jamaica To The UK: The Most Popular Route



Other Popular Routes

REINA DEL PACIFICO – Valparaiso; Antofagasta; Callao; La Libertad; Santander; Cartagena; Kingston; Havana; Nassau; Hamilton and La Pallice to London

ARIGUA – Kingston; Curacao; La Guaira; Fort De France and Bermuda

CAVINA – Barbados; Trinidad and Kingston; Jamaica, Kingston; Port of Spain and Bridgetown to Bristol

Winds of Change

Social Geographer Ceri Peach estimates that the number of people in Britain born in the West Indies grew from 15,000 in 1951 to 172,000 in 1961.

The Journey



Accommodation

Accommodation on board the ships varied enormously. Some ships were ex warships and were cramped and lacked fresh air flow. Other ships were designed with wealthy travellers in mind, and so were relatively luxurious. Generally female passengers were only allowed to travel in second and first class cabins, so had to pay a higher fare.

Food and Music

For some passengers, travelling on these ships gave them their first experienced of non Caribbean foods. It was also an opportunity for people from the different Islands to compare and contrast the names and cooking techniques of local staples leading to some heated discussions.

Cultural Mix

The ships allowed a wide range of people to mix and through exchange of attitudes to food, music, and culture enrich their understanding of other cultures. People came not only from different Islands in the Caribbean, but also from places such as Cuba and Valparaiso in Chile as the ships crossed the oceans.