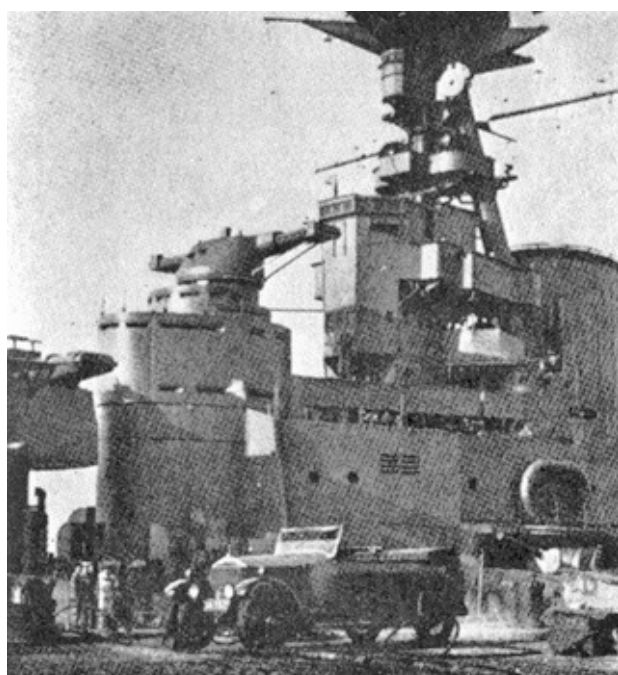


## The Admiral's Rolls-Royce goes to the Sydney Royal Easter Show

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The 1922 Rolls-Royce Twenty Barker tourer chassis 40G9 was brought by Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Field on board the battle-cruiser H.M.S. *Hood*, which was visiting Sydney in April 1924 on the Cruise of the Special Service Squadron also known as the Empire Cruise.



**Top:** This photograph appeared in 'The Sydney Morning Herald' 17 April 1924. The 1922 Rolls-Royce Twenty 40G9 Barker tourer is shown here at the Sydney Cove Man O'War Steps about to lead the procession to the Sydney Showground. Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Field is in the rear behind the driver, seated next to him is Capt. J. K. Im Thurn (Flag captain of H.M.S. Hood, Admiral Field's flagship) and in the front passenger seat is Flag-Lieutenant C A Caslon.

**Left:** H.M.S. Hood shown in the Devonport Dockyard just before starting the 'Empire Cruise' with 40G9 in the shadow of the turrets. This image was re-produced in the Adelaide newspaper 'The Advertiser' on 17 January 1924.

The similarity of a Twenty on display at the Sydney Show to the Admiral's Twenty was noted by the 'Sunday Times' on 20 April 1924 and under the heading "Dalgety's Car Display",

*"Messrs. Dalgety and Company, Limited, exhibited Rolls-Royce cars in the shape of a magnificent interior drive saloon body on a 40-50 h.p. chassis, and a 20 h.p. touring car. The former is one of the most luxurious cars that has ever been seen on the Show Ground, the body work being of special finish throughout, and comes from the well-known London maker, Park Ward. Messrs. Dalgety and Company, Limited, are offering the car for sale on the coachbuilder's account, it having been sent to Australia as a sample of British coachwork.*

*The 20 h.p. car is very similar to the 20 h.p. Rolls-Royce that has been carried on H.M.S. Hood for the special use of Admiral Sir Frederick Field."*

The 40-50 h.p. at the Sydney Show was 1923 Silver Ghost chassis 38EM with a Park Ward V-screen saloon. The 20 h.p. was 1923 Twenty chassis 87K9 a Smith & Waddington tourer.



*Above: 38EM during Peter Crauford's ownership.*

*Left: 87K9 at Bondi, Sydney, in about 1930.  
[Courtesy of Roger Thiedeman]*

A procession of British-made cars was hurriedly arranged to take advantage of the Vice-Admiral's presence in Sydney. The plan was to escort Sir Frederick to the official luncheon at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show on 16 April 1924. The Sydney based Rolls-Royce representative B A Peat was part of the organising group. 'The Sydney Morning Herald' reported on 17 April 1924,

*"In advance of the Admiral's barge, officers' launches arrived from H.M.S. Hood and H.M.S. Repulse. Shortly before half-past 12 o'clock the Vice-Admiral and his staff landed at Man-O'-War steps (beside the now Sydney Opera House). Immediately they proceeded to the waiting car. With Sir Frederick Field in the Rolls-Royce were Capt. J. K. Im Thurn and Flag-Lieutenant Caslon. Following was a Bean Fourteen car, also brought out from England on board H.M.S. Hood, containing Capt. H. W Parker, Pay-Master-Commander Horsey, and Mr. H. F. Batterbee."*



Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Field had overall command of the Cruise of the Special Service Squadron from November 1923 to September 1924. Capt. Thurn commanded H.M.S. *Hood* and Capt. Parker H.M.S. *Repulse*, the two battle-cruisers. Rear-Admiral Sir Hubert Brand commanded the five vessels of the Light Cruiser Squadron, H.M.S. *Dunedin*, H.M.S. *Delhi*, H.M.S. *Danae*, H.M.S. *Dauntless*, and H.M.S. *Dragon*. Known variously as the Empire Cruise, the World Cruise or by the Squadron's men as the Booze Cruise. It was a reminder to friend and foe alike that Britannia still ruled the waves.

*Below: Crowds on the Sydney Harbour foreshore at Bradleys Head welcoming the Squadron. H.M.S. Hood is in the background. [Empire Cruise book by V. S. Scott O'Connor.]*



REAR-ADMIRAL THE HONBLE. SIR HUBERT BRAND,  
K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.,  
COMMANDING FIRST LIGHT CRUISER SQUADRON.



VICE-ADMIRAL SIR FREDERICK FIELD,  
K.C.B., K.C.M.G.,  
COMMANDING SPECIAL SERVICE SQUADRON.

The Port Pirie newspaper 'The Recorder' also reported on 24 April 1924 about the procession of 200 British-made motor cars and noted there was a commercial imperative as well as flying the flag for the British Empire,

*"All the cars had red, white and blue 'stickers' attached to the windscreens, on which were printed in clear type the words, 'Like the Fleet, this car is British'. The demonstration was in support of the movement in favour of British-made motor cars. Sir Frederick Field was highly pleased with the response made to the request to take part in the procession.*

*That there was reason for the advocacy for Australian motorists to buy British-made cars was amply proved last Saturday, when the Kansas arrived in Sydney from New York. Included in the steamer's cargo were 900 motor cars. And this was only one shipment."*



*Above: Roger Thiedeman sent this photograph of Twenty 40G9 with the comment, "'Snapped' earlier in the itinerary of the 'Empire Cruise', January 12 to 17, taking the Sultan of Zanzibar for a 'spin' around his sultanate." Roger is a former member of the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club of Australia having joined the Victoria Branch in 1982 and the ACT Branch in 1993 and kindly sends Rolls-Royce and Bentley items of interest. [via Peter Brown (UK) originally from the late Bryan K. Goodman's collection.]*

Incidentally, at the Sydney Show that year there was another Rolls Royce (sic) not recorded in any Rolls-Royce chassis records. 'The Sydney Morning Herald' reported on Monday 21 April 1924 on the trotting contests in the showground ring the previous Saturday evening,

*"The Electric Light Handicap, trot or pace, in harness, one mile, was responsible for some fairly fast and close finishes. There were four heats... No. 2 was won by R. Byrne's Rolls Royce."*

A 1 h.p. Rolls Royce!