The SS Politician was an 8000-ton cargo ship sailing for Kingston, Jamaica and New Orleans with a cargo including 28,000 cases of malt whisky. On 5 February 1941, during gale force winds, she ran aground off the island of Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides.

The ship’s fuel tanks were ruptured, and its engines gave up, leaving the crew to await rescue—and the salvage of their cargo.

To the locals, beset by war rationing, this was too good an opportunity to miss. Unofficial local ‘salvage parties’ began to form. People came from as far afield as Lewis and according to reports, few regarded what they were doing as stealing: the foundering of the ship made its cargo theirs to save under the ‘rules of salvage’. The authorities, however, did not share this view, not least because the whisky was destined for the United States—and so no duty had been paid on it.

There followed a salvage operation with the police raiding villages and crofts in an effort to recover the liquid cargo—and the locals secreting their gains wherever they could, or else they just drank them.

How much was taken by the sea, and how much fell prey to the impromptu salvage operations mounted by the locals of Eriskay, Barra, the Uists, and Lewis? We will almost certainly never know.
WHISKY GALORE!
FILM LOCATIONS MAP

1. Portse Hay, Aberdeenshire
   - The main village of the island of Todday
   - Exterior of Macrae’s House, the Post Office, and School House
   - Islanders hide whisky in the brick
   - Whisky found by Waggett
   - A bottle of whisky lies on the beach

2. Mill Beach, Pennan, Aberdeenshire
   - The island of Todday
   - The islanders hide whisky in the cave
   - Whisky found by Waggett
   - Waggett takes the whisky to the burry out of the reach of Waggett

3. New Aberdour Beach, Pennan, Aberdeenshire
   - The island of Todday
   - The islanders hide whisky in the cave
   - Whisky found by Waggett
   - The islanders take the whisky to the burry out of the reach of Waggett

4. Luss Village Hall, Luss, Argyll & Bute
   - School Classroom
   - George Honeyman’s house is shown
   - Mrs Campbell threatens George
   - Whisky tasting and wedding speeches

5. St Monan’s Parish Church, Fife
   - Church service
   - The islanders attend church, where they are told to be careful at the burry

6. Loch Thom, Greenock, Inverclyde
   - The island of Todday
   - Waggett leaves a bottle of whisky on the beach

7. Cellston House & Gardens, Dumbarton
   - Interiors of Waggett’s House, Hector’s Croft
   - The School House, The Post Office, Roddy’s Croft
   - Bully plays billiards
   - Macrae and the islanders hide the whisky
   - Hector’s dog sniffs out, unaware of the situation
   - Waggett places the Croft
   - George is caught in the rain
   - The girls get ready for the wedding
   - Cantona plays
   - View from the Croft at dawn: A bird flies from Cantons’ garden

8. Central Bar, Renfrew, Glasgow
   - The bar on the island of Todday
   - Interior shots of the island’s pub
   - The locals exclaim “There’s no more whisky!”

9. Pinkston Watersports, Glasgow
   - Filming night shots at sea
   - The islanders sail out to the ship in their boats to rescue the crofts of whisky

10. Forrestburn Race Track, near Harthill
    - The coastline of Todday
    - The islanders and Waggett race to rescue the whisky
    - Waggett drives with Bully
    - Waggett drives to the cave
    - The islanders drive the burry to rescue the whisky

11. St Abb’s Head, Berwickshire
    - The coastline of Todday
    - Waggett finds some whisky bottles
    - The burry runs out of petrol
    - Bully drives on the beach, carrying the bottles

12. Beach, Ayr, Ayrshire
    - The coastline of Todday
    - Waggett finds some whisky bottles
    - The burry runs out of petrol
    - Bully drives on the beach, carrying the bottles
Whisky Galore! has been raising laughs for nearly 70 years.

Compton Mackenzie’s popular 1947 novel inspired an unforgettable Ealing comedy in 1949 and now, in 2017, a brilliant new movie which shows off Scotland at its dazzling best.

Based on the real-life sinking of the SS Politician off the coast of Eriskay in 1941, and the subsequent seizing of thousands of bottles of whisky by locals. Whisky Galore! is a celebration of a nation’s love for “The Water of Life”.

While Alexander Mackendrick’s original movie was shot almost entirely on location in the Outer Hebrides, where Barra stood in for the fictional islands of Great Todday and Little Todday, Gillies MacKinnon’s version makes use of outstanding locations throughout Scotland, from the Borders up to Aberdeenshire, from Ayrshire to Glasgow and across to the East Neuk of Fife.

Starring Gregor Fisher, Eddie Izzard, Sean Biggerstaff and Naomi Battrick, the new version of Whisky Galore! has one notable advantage over the original — namely that Scotland’s amazing landscapes are in glorious colour.

This map includes all the locations used in this fantastic new production of Whisky Galore! because, as we all know, there’s only one thing better than enjoying the delights of Scotland on the silver screen, and that’s to do a spot of “set-jetting” and exploring the film locations for yourself.

Slàinte!

REMAKING A CLASSIC

The warmth, whimsy and, of course, the whisky which made Whisky Galore! such a success in both the source novel and Alexander Mackendrick’s 1949 film adaptation are alive and well in this version of a much loved and highly treasured favourite.

The story of Whisky Galore! is based on real life events, when the 8000 ton cargo ship the SS Politician ran aground off the Island of Eriskay during gale force winds. Author Compton Mackenzie took these events and wrote a wonderfully warm and witty book that was ripe for adaptation.

In 1949 his story of whisky-deprived islanders plundering a wrecked vessel and doing their best to hide the loot from the Home Guard was adapted by Ealing Studios, going on to be hailed a classic. It was released in the US as Tight Little Island and in France as the far more saucy Whisky A Go Go. The film details the story of the inhabitants of the isolated Scottish island of Todday, in the Outer Hebrides, where gloom sets in as their wartime rationing of whisky runs out. When cargo ship the SS Cabinet Minister runs aground the shrewd islanders run rings around the buttish English Home Guard commander Captain Wagget (beautifully played by Eddie Izzard) and conspire to hide away cases of the precious amber nectar.

A terrific Scottish cast including Gregor Fisher as local postmaster (and narrator of the story) Macraon, Kevin Guthrie as mild-mannered teacher George, James Cosmo as local minister MacAlister, and a delightful script by Peter McBoigal combine to make Gillies MacKinnon’s version a charming delight.