

"Goliath" You're A WHALE Of A Size

C.T. July 19, 1957



THE biggest whale ever to be caught and put on exhibition visited Christchurch on Sunday (14 July 1957). Named "Goliath", it was displayed on a huge 78ft. long trailer on land off High Street. A 62-tonner, it is said to weigh as much as 1,000 people. Its heart weighs 330lb., kidneys 540lb., liver 870lb., and tongue 4,300lb., and it is 66ft. long. "Goliath" spent its last days at Bergen, Norway, where it was harpooned on June 4, 1954. Immediately it was caught, 1,000 gallons of water, mixed with 10% formalin, was injected into its giant sized body to preserve it. It was first taken on a 6,000-ton freighter to France, where it was

on exhibition for two years, and then to Italy before coming to this country.

The trailer on which "Goliath" is exhibited and transported, is said to be the largest in the world. With a total of 18 wheels and 10 gears, this is easily believed. Driving the vehicle throughout the tour is Mr. Willy Pouwels, a Dutchman.

Having driven on the Continent for so long, he does not care for our left hand "rule of the road", but has so far managed to manoeuvre his mammoth trailer with little difficulty. The exhibition moves camp early morning so as to avoid traffic and is escorted by police.

DEAD? OF COURSE.

The whale is now on show at Kings Park, Bournemouth. "Goliath" is, of course, dead, but the manager has been faced with such questions as "Is he alive?" and on one occasion a lady brought along some bread to "feed the whale!"