

MERSEYSIDE GRIT EARNS ROYAL PRAISE

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The King and Queen haven't made the mistake of many Londoners by imagining that the capital's had all the bombing to itself. They've been north for a two-day survey of the Merseyside, a sign of true sympathy appreciated by the much-bombed people of this northern target. In Birkenhead, Wallasey, Bootle and Liverpool the chief scenes of damage visited by Their Majesties, it was the people themselves whom the King and Queen most wanted to see. In those two days they must have spoken to hundreds for whom each night has been a nightmare for more than two months.

The courage of old people, many of them bombed out of house and home, the quiet heroism of air-raid wardens, the brave endurance of women, all touched the royal hearts.

Everywhere on the damaged Merseyside it was the people who held Their Majesties' interest - people who are different in many surface ways from the heroic millions of London, but in the hard core of character the same as Britons everywhere in the country. Like London the Merseyside can take it. There may be months of it yet, but years of bombing would no more affect British resolve than sea waves harm granite cliffs. From King and Queen to humblest subject victory remains the goal.
