

KING SEES BRITAIN'S ARMED MIGHT AT SEA

Three Days With the Fleet in Northern Waters

HIS Majesty the King has spent three days with the Home Fleet in Northern waters. He slept aboard the flagship King George V., and visited aircraft carriers, cruisers, and destroyers which have taken part in recent actions. During the whole visit every ship was under "short notice" and ready to engage the enemy.

At a historic ceremony in the admiral's cabin in "K. G. V." the King knighted the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir John Tovey, and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath. It was from this cabin that the admiral went up to his bridge to direct the Fleet action against the Bismarck. Seven officers and 15 ratings were also decorated after the Commander-in-Chief.

ARRIVAL BY AIR

King Piped Aboard the "K.G.V."

The King (writes the Press Association special correspondent with the Fleet) arrived by air, flying in an R.A.F. Lockheed Hudson 'plane piloted by his personal pilot, Wing Commander E. H. Fielden, and escorted by fighters. It was the first time a King of Britain has ever come to his Fleet by air.

At the naval air base where he landed the King met the war at first hand, for the crews of naval aircraft whom he inspected and talked to had been on patrol only a few hours before, and many of them told him vivid stories of the part they took in the recent successful raids on Petsamo and Kirkenes.

The King went off in the morning to join the King's Fleet. He picked up the coming of the great grey of the sea, and with the time

given by him to the ship with the inscription in it in the King's hand.

He went into the warrant officers' mess, the chief petty officers' mess, the men's messes, and the ship's bakery.

Naval Review Touch

At morning service on deck the King sat with the C-in-C. and the captain. While he was in the flagship he gave a dinner party, and afterwards saw a film show with the officers in the wardroom.

An ex-American destroyer was among the ships the King visited on his last day, and then he went aboard another destroyer, which has just completed 150,000 miles of war-time steaming. Standing on her bridge, the King took the salute as she steamed at slow speed through the Fleet.

Officers and men lined the side of each of the ships, big and small, and as the King passed their cheers thundered out over the waters, giving a final naval review touch to the royal war-time visit. It was a marvellous demonstration of Britain's armed might in the war at sea.

Admiral Tovey went ashore with the King, and as they said good-bye the King gave his last command to the C-in-C., ordering him to signal the Fleet "Splice the main brace"—the order to serve extra rum rations in every ship in the Fleet to drink the King's health.

On his way back to London the King sent a message to Sir John Tovey congratulating all officers and men under his command on their excellent bearing and the good spirits in which they are standing up to the strain of the war.

His Majesty's visit to bases in the North (writes a "Glasgow Herald" correspondent) produced a magnificent spectacle. The press 'plane, having completed operations at His Majesty's previous port of call, landed at an aerodrome in time

KNIGHTED ON BOARD HIS FLAGSHIP



Admiral Sir John Tovey, Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleet, who was knighted by the King during His Majesty's visit to the Fleet in Northern waters.

to allow the occupants to witness a grand review of flying personnel, ground staffs, machines, and premises.

Visits to Town and Air Base

His Majesty was given an enthusiastic reception in the county town, where the royal route was lined by policemen and special constables. His visit became known only on the morning of his arrival, and after motoring some distance into the country his car altered course, and unescorted, climbed to the site of a certain unit. Thereafter the King embarked on a naval craft.

His Majesty visited an air base and reviewed naval, military, air force, and civilian personnel, a number of whom had been inspected at the same place by His Majesty on a previous visit. He arrived in a fast launch, and walked from the pier to the parade ground. In doing so he passed a packed natural grandstand filled with civilians.

At another point the King saw a battalion of the Home Guard, and afterwards visited a Royal Air Force establishment. On his journey to the departure point the King was enthusiastically cheered along the route.

Although all forces were prominent in the final day's proceedings, this was noticeably a naval occasion. The band was from the Royal Marines, who also provided a Royal Guard of Honour.

en
ma
ter
iss
Bu
wil
bus
car
civ
wh
reg
a f
T
em
all
In
gene
glaz
deco
plas
also
ing,
stall
elect
ALL
under
engin
must
selves
takin
milit
branch
firm.
Regi
able
Labour
A
Mini
Mr
the Mi
tration
plan of
organis
war e
attemp
labour
did not
was t
numb
know
Th
be
s