

ICELAND VISIT: FIRST PICTURES.

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Title: The Eagle & The Hawk.  
Discs: 550.223.541.533.314.394.  
550.541.223.441.  
Lines: Stagg.

Track: The Archers..Rally Song.  
Pasadena March..Bagpipes  
San Pedro March.  
Rule Britannia (HMV Disc.8553.  
Voice: Stagg.

On a platform at King's Cross most of the Cabinet, as well as Mrs. Churchill, welcomed the Prime Minister home.

Greeting Ambassador Winant the Premier had a quick handshake all round and strode off in great spirits.

Back at headquarters two of the camera crew, who made the Atlantic trip, Read and Macgregor, came to make their own personal account on the screen. First, Editor G.T. Cummins had a friendly word with them.

(Mac) I think everybody on board felt pretty excited - as if we'd all had a small share in bringing the Prime Minister and the President together. I've been in the news business all my life and I suppose I'm pretty blase, but this trip "got me" in a way I never remember before. Anyway, we were now homeward bound, with destroyers escorting us and quite a sea running. In rough weather, rough to a landsman anyhow - I should call all men-o'-war fairly wet ships; and by that I don't mean the bar, though that was the most sensible place to be if you weren't a poor cameraman who'd got to stay on deck and make pictures.

When we were well under way we had the marvellous luck to sight the biggest convoy I've ever seen. That was another big thrill. The whole seascape crowded with ships whichever way you looked. I thought, this shows who's winning the Battle of the Atlantic. Perhaps that was what Mr. Churchill was thinking. The Prince of Wales steamed right through the lines. The merchantmen were told that the Premier was on board, and you can bet those sailors appreciated it when the battleship turned and went down the line again. When the Prime Minister sent them greetings by signal - Churchill wishes you good luck and bon voyage - you should have heard the cheers that went up.

It was hail and farewell to the convoy. We soon left them behind and nothing much happened after that till we sighted Iceland and anchored off Reek - Rech - I can't pronounce that so I'll hand over to Ronnie.

(Read) Reykjavik, that's the best I can do... The Prime Minister went ashore with Ensign Roosevelt and mighty glad the commanders of the garrison looked as they grasped him by the hand. The word had gone round that the P.M. was on the way and half the population had taken the day off to be on the quayside. Ha, ha!

The problem of who should supply the guard of honour was solved by all three services sharing it. After a quick inspection Mr. Churchill went to the Regency where we saw the Regent introduce him to the people.

Winston Churchill told them they could trust the British Empire to see the thing

(see back hereof)

CHURCHILL'S RETURN .. continued.

thing/

through. I understand why they cheered. It's amazing how confident you feel when you're near him.

I soon found he'd made up his mind to see as much as there was time for, and to meet as many men of the garrison as he could including the Americans. He had to walk nearly three miles to do it and if you don't think that was very much I can assure you it was, at least for me humping a camera.

(Mac) (BASE) As if that walk wasn't enough the Prime Minister mounted the saluting base and reviewed a march past for close on an hour. By the way, we saw something more here of the part America's playing. The U.S. Marines were in the procession. They've been in a good many Hollywood pictures but this was the real thing.

These Australian airmen made us feel jolly proud of the Empire.

The war's introduced bag-pipes to Iceland, so if the natives don't appreciate good music my name's not Macgregor.

(Read) (P.M. SALUTES) By the way, we saw Polish and Norwegian sailors in the march past.

I asked the Prime Minister and Ensign Roosevelt if they'd pose together to give a good 'hands across the sea' picture.

Nearly everybody on the island came to see us off, including the Iceland Prime Minister, Herman Jonasson. The Iceland people and the garrison had the best day they've had for years.

(Mac) (SALUTE UP GANGWAY) As we went on the destroyer to go out to the Prince of Wales every ship in the harbour sounded its siren. A chorus of V for Victory. It was so impressive that it quite brought a lump to my throat.

That means V for Victory too.

Well that was that. We all went back to the Prince of Wales feeling that the visit to Iceland had been a rattling success.

(Read) I took a shot of Mac on board and afterwards posed for one by him. Handsome men are still slightly sunburned.

You should have seen the shooting practice on the way home. It was marvellous. The AA guns fired a smoke target shell and the pom-poms fairly riddled it. We intended to give this a miss and a stay in bed, but we soon found it a darned sight more comfortable on deck than being in your bunk, bounced about like a pea in a callinder. Edmunds one of the other cameramen on the voyage was up on the signal deck while they were firing and got a pretty good shaking up.

It was soon after sunrise that we got back into home waters, and though it was

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PREMIER'S RETURN...continued.

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very nice to see Britain again I think we both felt a bit sorry that this wonderful experience had come to an end. We had just one more big moment, the Prime Minister's farewell speech.

"Many years ago there was a statesman who came back from a European conference who said he had brought with him peace with honour. We've not sought peace on this occasion and as for honour we've never lost it but we have brought back the means of waging more effective war and a surer hope of final and speedy victory.

"And sure I am however the winds may blow that whatever may be the chances and accident of battle and the sea the men, the officers and men of the Prince of Wales will always be ready to add another page to the glorious and long annals of the Royal Navy."

The ship's band played Rule Britannia as the Prime Minister left the Prince of Wales. So come to an end the narratives of two men who were privileged to record in motion pictures the outstanding political event of the present war: the Atlantic meeting of the indomitable leaders of democracy, the U.S. President and Winston Churchill.

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