

AFRICA ACCLAIMS THE KING

Cape Town was resplendent in the early sunshine of a summer morning. It was a general holiday. The great day had at last arrived when to the gateway of the African continent came the Royal Family. The seventeen-day voyage from frost-bound Britain was at an end. In Royal mood the Union of South Africa welcomed for the first time a reigning monarch of the British Commonwealth. Vanguard, forty-two thousand ton newest battleship of the Royal Navy, came into Duncan Dock. It was the end of a pleasant six-thousand mile voyage.

As Vanguard neared the Equator - to go back for a brief resume of the journey - she again ran into heavy seas.

By this time the ^{crew &} battleship, ~~the men-o'-war~~ of her escort, and the royal travellers, were experienced voyagers, delighting in the invigorating swell as they ran southwards down the west coast of the African continent.

There ~~was one~~ ^{very} memorable day of calm when the King and Queen enjoyed to the full the tropical sunshine. It was

on ^{one} such a day that the princesses joined with the midshipmen in deck games and a treasure hunt. It isn't often that the newsreel cameras record ~~scenes of such~~ ^{such moments} ~~to~~ informality. of

On the tenth of February Vanguard crossed the line.

King Neptune observed the tradition of the Equator, came aboard and inspected the miscellaneous company he had brought ^{up} with him from the deep by way of guard of honour.

The ceremonies of ~~crossing-the-line~~ are looked upon with some apprehension by voyagers crossing the line for the first time, as it is not the habit of Neptune and his

7 and 8 royal
Bridge

followers to allow such novices to go Scot-free.

However, the princesses sportingly took the risk that they too might be victims and came along to join in the fun. The traditional routine is to give the novices a mock shave by a nautical Sweeney Todd who then pushes them backwards into the water. Victim Number 1 was radio commentator Frank Gillard.

The princesses were spared a ducking and let off with having their faces powdered.

Having now retired to the bridge the Royal Family watched the free-for-all with which Neptune's rites finished up.

3/1

From the aircraft carrier in the naval escort Seafires flew in salute as the southern coast was sighted.

On the last stage of the voyage escort-duty was taken up by the cruiser Nigeria, coming in spectacularly close alongside the battleship. At last hove in sight Table Mountain, symbol of good hope for mariners since Vasco da Gama first rounded the Cape five-hundred years ago.

As His Majesty and his family stepped onto the soil of South Africa they were greeted by the Governor-General of the Union, Major Van Zyl, and the grand old man of the British Commonwealth, Field-Marshal Smuts. More than a quarter-million people cheered the royal cavalcade through the city of Cape Town.

At the Royal Pavilion in Grand Parade His Majesty received a civic welcome to ~~Cape~~^{the} Town and loyal address by the Administrator. The day was swelteringly hot, even for high summer at the Cape. Here at home it needs a strong effort of the imagination to realise that it is possible to be too warm. Loudspeakers carried the King's voice far and wide as he replied to the address of welcome.

2/2

After lunch Their Majesties drove ten miles out to Westbrook, country estate of the Governor-General. Here, Major Van Zyl held a garden party in honour of the royal visitors, and in a setting of great beauty five-thousand fashionably attired guests had the opportunity to speak to the King and his family.

A brief rest was taken at Government House. The Royal Family, and Their hosts, the Government of the Union, were well satisfied with the brilliant beginning of the royal visit to South Africa.