

## THE ROYAL HOMECOMING

With Vanguard anchored off shore the Royal Family paid a short visit to the Island of St. Helena on the voyage home. It lies in the South Atlantic about two thousand miles north-west of Cape Town. It has an assured place in history as the prison of Napoleon. To this volcanic island of fifty-square miles was <sup>finally</sup> reduced the Emperor who dominated Europe. ~~At St. Helena he was interned for six years till his death in eighteen twenty-one.~~ The historic house at Longwood, where Napoleon held the remnants of a court, is preserved much as it was in his day. However, it all happened in the lifetime of one inhabitant <sup>still</sup> ~~of the island~~, a giant tortoise two-hundred years old, who was a youngster of seventy when Napoleon arrived.

During the restful voyage home the Princesses went down to the engine-room and learned from the engineers something of how the forty-two-thousand-ton pride of the Royal Navy is driven and controlled.

For six weeks, out and home, the Royal Family were the ~~guests of~~

honoured guests of the battleship's officers and crew, on behalf of whom Captain Agnew presented His Majesty with a wallet, the Queen and Princesses with brooches.

In return, before leaving Vanguard, the Royal Family gave signed photographs to officers commanding various departments of the ship. As the voyage drew to its close the King and Queen and their daughters were photographed with the whole ship's company. Here were represented the Crown, which unites the British Commonwealth, and seapower, on which ~~forces~~

*to Empire* founded and which in two world-wars preserved it against attack.

At last, on Sunday afternoon, the southern coast of this island was within sight. At Portsmouth and Southsea half a million people gave the returning voyagers a royal welcome.

*(Sail)*  
 (GU woman wave) The King and his family spent Sunday night on board. They were first greeted by the Duke of Gloucester, who deputised for the monarch during the royal absence.

Married men were first off the ship, their happiness at being home-again increased by the three days additional leave granted by the King.

(gangway) Next morning it was farewell to Vanguard.

After a hundred and one days, which began during the great frost and included the grim <sup>weeks</sup> of the fuel crisis, the Royal Family were home again.

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 At Portsmouth Guildhall/Pompey <sup>blitzed, and now only a shell,</sup> gave the returning travellers a civic welcome. In accordance

with the tradition of this naval city the keys of the fortress were tendered to the King, and by him returned.

(GV down steps) Front row seats to witness the ceremony were given to

some of the town's oldest inhabitants. Their Majesties took leave of Portsmouth and entrained for London.

The Prime Minister, some of his colleagues, and other dignitaries were on the platform at Waterloo. As Lord Lieutenant of the County of London the Duke of Wellington had the honour of first greeting the King. After him came the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary, Mr. Chuter Ede. Also present were ~~the~~ Lord Addison and the High Commissioners for South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. Now it was the turn of the people. Men and women of London lined the route from the station to Buckingham Palace. Many who watched the carriage drive past ~~remembered~~ <sup>remembered</sup> that <sup>a</sup> by happy coincidence this day was the tenth anniversary of the Coronation. Few among the millions <sup>who</sup> cheered ten years ago foresaw that Britain and the whole free world would soon be subjected to trials severe beyond any in history. We have come through; Democracy triumphant and our institutions intact.

(GV crowds from Palace) The King and his family have come home. Warm-hearted South Africa cherishes unforgettable memories of the historic tour. To the Commonwealth His Majesty has performed a service only possible to the Crown by drawing still closer together the British peoples.