

ROYALTY WITH THE FLEET

The greatest assembly of men-o'-war since the Coronation Review was inspected by His Majesty on his visit to the Home Fleet. From battleships and aircraft carriers down to minesweepers and corvettes the ships of the Royal Navy made an inspiring sight, representative of the might of whose a maritime power ~~in~~ greatness was founded upon mastery of the seas. Among the men-o'-war the royal party boarded was the great battleship Duke of York, and as the royal barge drew alongside, the Fleet stood by in readiness for a salute of twenty-one guns.

(inspects) On his visit to the Fleet His Majesty inspected some thousand of the Navy's share of the one million, three hundred thousand men still in the Armed Forces.

~~The Prime Minister~~ was among members of the Government invited to accompany the royal party. ^{was at P.M.} The submarine Tiptoe gave a display of the new breather, the device which enables undersea craft to submerge a few feet and cruise on their diesel engines. Under war conditions it considerably lessens the strain on the submarine's batteries. The cruiser Superb was visited. Aboard her, Indian ratings were congratulated on their smartness.

To Bishop's farewell 2 to Indian sailors
Next, the King and his family went aboard the battleship Anson, flagship of the training battleship squadron.

The Princesses renewed their acquaintanceship with some midshipmen, ~~and~~ ^{an} informal incident, no doubt much appreciated

by the middies; especially when something modern in the dancing line was demonstrated by Princess Margaret.

Down

Among the lines of warships the royal party sailed in a motor torpedo boat. The Aircraft Carrier Illustrious and all the other men-o'-war saluted their passing. Lieutenant Mountbatten viewed them with the eyes of a sailor, himself serving with the Fleet until his engagement to the Princess withdrew him from duties afloat.

The former Prince Philip drew attention to a flame-throwing exercise.

(GV sunset) The royal visit to the Navy has shown that ~~the Senior Service is in all ways efficient and up-to-date.~~ The lesson of nineteen thirty nine has been learned.

Britain knows today that in the words of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Portal, while hoping for the best ^{worst} we must never again be so ill-prepared for the ~~worst~~.