

CORONATION FLEET REVIEW

Upon 25 square miles of water made historic by many naval reviews lay 220 ships of the Royal Navy, with 16 foreign men-o-war, awaiting the visit of Her Majesty the Queen. Serving as royal yacht was Surprise, ~~former despatch vessel of 1600~~

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~~tons.~~ Aboard her Her Majesty received commanding officers of ships from abroad, perhaps the most interesting in

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the circumstances, from the Russian cruiser Sverdlov, Captain Rudakov. It was a great moment ~~to~~ thousands of holidaymakers lining the South Sea shore when Surprise got under way and steamed out of Portsmouth Harbour. The Queen had embarked upon Her Coronation Review of the Royal Navy. [The Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and others of the Royal Family were aboard Surprise. A 21-gun salute came from the assembled fleet.

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(\*)

(81)

Surprise herself was headed by Patricia, Trinity House vessel, ~~with Elder Brother~~ Sir Winston Churchill aboard. Vanguard, ~~in all the Majesty of her 42,000 tons,~~ was the only battleship in the assembled fleet.

156

(air)

Only from the air could the impressive muster be completely viewed, ~~up and down the 7 mile lines of ships~~ Surprise now passed the American cruiser Baltimore. Another friend and ally, France, was represented by Montcalm, a cruiser of 6,700 tons. The Russian Sverdlov is a recently completed cruiser of 12,800 tons.

(next)

Illustrating modern warfare tendency nine aircraft carriers were present. Illustrious sent her cheers ringing over the water.

TB4 achieving its role - 4 7 oar,  
o Rl Yot, Surprise (1600 tons) & a  
despatch vessel

\* (270)

Italy trains her navy in sail, and in Amerigo Vespucci certainly provided the most picturesque ship of the whole review, her men lining the <sup>yards</sup> rigging, some of them a hundred feet above deck.

(next)

220 men-o-war were in the anchorage, as many <sup>more</sup> were on the high seas in <sup>several</sup> many parts of the world, going about their lawful occasions. Aircraft carriers apart, the modern navy lays the accent upon the smaller ships.

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Appropriately, destroyers and frigates made a brave show at Spithead. (Pause 7)

Somewhere among them was Magpie, commanded in the Mediterranean, before higher duty recalled him, by the Duke himself.

(300)

Increasingly helicopters prove their worth in scores of ways, and despite their appearance have a big future in naval war. Surprise had now completed her hour and a half of steaming up and down the lines. This was the moment for 300 aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm to salute Her Majesty in the fly-over.

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The Admiral's barge carried Her Majesty to Vanguard. She received by Admiral Creasy, C-in-C and the Duke were ~~the guests at dinner~~

Home Fleet, and were his guests at dinner. The fleet was now illuminated. (An unforgettable sight for the many thousands ashore.) The Royal Navy was honoured by the presence of a young queen whom it will serve with the traditional loyalty and distinction of the Senior Service.