

QUEEN REVIEWS EX-SERVICEMEN

Seventy-two thousand veterans of two World Wars paraded in Hyde Park for the Coronation Review. Brilliant sunshine blessed the event and the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh drove slowly down the long lines of ex-servicemen and women. Chelsea Pensioners were there, erect in their scarlet coats. So, too, were the war blinded, unseeing in the bright sunlight. For them the summer greenery of the park, and the blues and golds of the thousands of British Legion standards, were but a shadowed memory. But they heard their Queen.

<sup>50</sup>  
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(Speech)

The British Legion alone had 40,000 of its members present, among them men and women from Australia, Canada, South Africa and Ireland. Some men saw service in the Boer War: the oldest veteran present being 93, ~~and~~ one of the standard bearers in the parade celebrated his 82nd birthday in the march past.

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For some the occasion was an <sup>EFFORT</sup> ~~ordeal~~, but a proud one, for as the Queen said "this comradeship is one of the few blessings which spring from the ordeal of war."

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Last of all came a group of disabled men in their special vehicles, led by Major Sir Brunel Cohen, all men who gave freely and, giving, counted not the cost.

QUEEN AND EX-SERVICE GATHERING

-- today in this, the year of my Coronation. It is therefore most appropriate that I should meet a national gathering of the men and women who have earned the honored name that you bear. .... service given by all of you to your country and to your fellow-countrymen. In greeting you I would say this: Though it is as ex-service men and women that you are here today, I knew that you do not regard your service as ended, that you still give it the same spirit that you showed as members of the forces, and that you will not hesitate to give your service again if your country repeats the demands which it made in 1914 and in 1939. There is no need for me to remind you that the celebrations of my Coronation were only made possible by the determination which inspired everyone - men, women and children - throughout both these great wars to sustain to the end at whatever cost to life and property the struggle to safeguard our Commonwealth and our ideals.

The ex-service movement so well represented in this splendid parade is, I am glad to say, as firmly based as ever. [As members of the ex-service organizations you keep alive the comradeship which is one of the few blessings which spring from the <sup>DARKNESS</sup> ~~the~~ evils of war.] They.... so proud and so (misheard) In that pride you share among you the true satisfaction which belongs only to those who have set themselves a heavy task and brought it to a successful finish. Your presence here is a proof that you realize that your country still has work for you to do. [You must never think that it is any less important than it was when you first began your service.] The whole world is still troubled, though we all trust that we went again have to pass through the furnace of war. [Much depends on the strength of purpose which we can in our daily lives ~~bring~~

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devote to the <sup>CAUSE</sup> cost of peace. The power of the Commonwealth weighs mightily  
in the balance. ] All that we can do as individuals and effectively.....  
towards the goal of peace. My husband and I have many personal links with the  
fighting services. Our interest in them is deep-seated..... shown by  
those who have served, all who now serve in them is..... [ I thank you with all  
my heart for what you have done in the past and are still doing today. | May the  
coming years bring you the happiness and prosperity which you so well ~~deserve~~  
deserve. (applause) ]