



PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1  
TELEPHONE: WHITEHALL 8131

5th July, 1953

CORONATION REVIEW OF EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN IN HYDE PARK, JULY 5

When 70,000 ex-Service men and women are reviewed by the Queen in Hyde Park on July 5 the British Legion contingent, 40,000-strong including 2,500 blue and gold standards, will comprise more than half the parade - the biggest since the war and six times as big as the Coronation parade.

All together more than 300 ex-Service organisations will be taking part.

The Legionaries will march in ten divisions, each comprising 4,000 men. Their leader will be Sir Ian Fraser, C.H., C.B.E., M.P., the Legion's blind President. He will march in the first Legion division (the tenth to pass the Queen) with Capt. S.H. Hampson, the National Chairman.

The divisions will muster in Kensington Gardens at noon and then march to Hyde Park for the Review.

In the march past there will be 20 divisions. They will be separated by a gap of 25 yards, except that after every fourth division the gap will be widened to 200 yards. Each division will be 452 feet long and members will march 108 paces each minute - a step of 30 inches.

HOW TO SPOT THE LEGION

The Legion's ten divisions will be easily identified by the mass of blue and gold standards at the head of each division. Their identifying letters, the order in which they march past (bracketed), their commanders and composition are:-

E (10) Sir Ian Fraser, M.P. and Capt. Hampson. Southern Area standard bearers, the National Executive Council, and (More)

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of Southern Area.

- J (11) The Lord Walsingham, of Norfolk. Eastern Area standard bearers and Legionaries.
- K (12) Major Gilbert Cohen, of Surbiton. Southern Area standard bearers and Legionaries.
- N (13) Brigadier Gooch, D.S.O., M.C., of Norfolk. Eastern Area standard bearers and Legionaries.
- O (14) Commander Jackson, R.N., of Bucks. Eastern Area standard bearers and Legionaries.
- U (15) Major R. Hargreaves, of Penrith. Midland and North-Western standard bearers and Legionaries. Eighty Legionaries from overseas branches.
- Q (16) Mr. K.C.G. Chambers, of London. Metropolitan Area standard bearers and Legionaries.
- R (17) Major Ben Davies, of Welshpool. Northern and Wales Areas standard bearers. Metropolitan and Northern Legionaries.
- T (18) Lt. Col. R. Grimshaw, of Leeds. Southern Area standard bearers and Legionaries plus 900 from Wales.
- S (19) Col. P. Docker, of Coventry. Midland Area standard bearers and Legionaries.

Major Sir Brunel Cohen (he was the Legion's first treasurer) will command the disabled veterans, at the rear of the parade, from his motor-propelled chair.

PERSONALITIES ON PARADE

Sir Ian Fraser, C.H., C.B.E., M.P., the Legion's President was blinded in the Battle of the Somme. Born 1897, he is a member  
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of a distinguished South African family. He has been President of the Legion six years. On parade, he will walk arm in arm with -

Capt. S. H. Hampson, the Legion's National Chairman. A first-war Lancashire Fusilier, Capt, Hampson is a former newspaper proprietor and editor from Salford, where he is chairman of the Bench. He holds offices in the National Health Service, including the presidency of the Executive Council's Association (England).

Mr. N. Curtis White, is the Legion's national standard bearer. An ex-Grenadier Guardsman, he lives at Ashton-in-Makerfield, near Wigan, where he is employed as a boiler maker. He has won the standard bearer championship two years in succession.

Major Sir Brunel Cohen, the Legion's first treasurer, was born in 1886. He joined the 1st V.B. King's (Liverpool) Regiment in 1906, later the 5th King's (Liverpool) Regiment, and was on the Reserve on the outbreak of the first world war; active list, 22 August, 1914. He was badly wounded in 1917 and mentioned in despatches. He lives at Portland Place, London.

Mr. William Holmes, is expected to be the oldest branch standard bearer on parade. He is 84 and comes from Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Mr. Joe Littlejohns, is the branch standard bearer for Bude, Cornwall. He is 80 and joined the Royal Navy in 1891. Originally pensioned in 1913, he rejoined the Navy for the first world war and served in H.M.S. Foresight. He was severely

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injured, but he has never missed a big parade.

Mr. T.J.Basting, standard bearer for West Hill, Devon, is also 80.

He joined the Royal Marines in 1887 and attended Queen Victoria's Jubilee as a drummer boy. In 1897 he took part in the Royal Review. All together, he served in 16 ships throughout the world before being discharged in 1923 as a colour sergeant. During the last war he joined the Observer Corps and served three years. He has carried the branch standard on all Legion occasions for 27 years and has never been known to miss a monthly branch meeting. On the Saturday following the Review he will be carrying the standard again - this time at the Legion's Devon County Rally.

Mr. H. E. Baxter, of Crofton Park, London, is a member of the L.C.C.

branch. He claims to be the youngest holder of the 1914-15 Mons Star. He was 52 last month and will march in the parade with an artificial right leg - souvenir of an action in 1917.

Mr. Stanley Griffiths, who comes from Penrith, was a Corporal in 6th Batt. Gordon Highlanders. He joined the Forces in 1940 and was sent to Algiers and into the fighting line. After taking part in the Tunis victory parade he was sent to Italy and took part in the Anzio landings. His battalion was badly mauled, but eventually carried on to help take Rome. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Griffiths was wounded and lost his right arm. Shipped home he was finally discharged in 1945.

Mr. Tom Isaacson, of Cambridge, is county standard bearer. Now 76 he

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joined the Royal Navy in 1892. His first ship was a sail training ship in which he sailed to North America and the West Indies. After that 2½ year tour of duty, he served in various Naval stations from the Mediterranean to China. When he was discharged after the first world war, Mr. Isaacson had served 25½ years in the Royal Navy. His next job was head porter at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, which he held for 21 years. Vice-president of City of Cambridge, British Legion branch, he is a member of the Service Committee.

end

ROYAL REVIEW OF EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

HYDE PARK, JULY 5TH, 1953

Approximate Timings

Arrival of H.M. The Queen and Royal Salute	2.30 p.m. - 2.35 p.m.
Religious Service	2.35 p.m. - 2.50 p.m.
Inspection of Parade	2.50 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.
Address by H.M. The Queen	3.30 p.m. - 3.35 p.m.
Forming up for the March Past	3.35 p.m. - 3.40 p.m.
March Past	3.40 p.m. - 4.45 p.m.

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Order of March

1. Veterans and D.C.M. League (Division A)
2. Dominions and Colonies (Division F)
3. Royal Naval (Division B)
4. Cavalry, Royal Engineers and Royal Signals (Division C)
5. Royal Artillery (Division G)
6. Infantry of the Line (Division H)
7. Infantry of the Line (Division L)
8. R.A.S.C, R.A.O.C, R.E.M.E. etc. (Division M)
9. Royal Air Force (Division D)
10. British Legion (Division E)
11. British Legion (Division J)
12. British Legion (Division K)
13. British Legion (Division N)
14. British Legion (Division O)
15. British Legion (Division U)
16. British Legion (Division Q)
17. British Legion (Division R)
18. British Legion (Division T)
19. British Legion (Division S)
20. Organisations other than Service or British Legion (Division P)

EX-SERVICEMEN'S REVIEW.

All Regimental Associations and nearly every Old Comrades' Association in the United Kingdom will be represented in the ex-Servicemen's and women's Coronation Royal review to be held in Hyde Park on Sunday, 5th July. H.M. The Queen will inspect the 60,000 ex-members of the three Fighting Services and will take the salute at the march past.

It would be possible to increase the numbers on parade to 80,000 and members of ex-service associations who would now like to take part in the parade are asked to communicate with their association secretary as soon as possible and in any case not later than Wednesday, 13th May.

The Ministry of Works has arranged for Coronation stands to be left in place on the East Carriage Drive, along which the parade will march past the Queen to provide seating for relatives of the men on parade. Applications for seats on these stands must be made by ex-servicemen through their Associations.

There is to be a special enclosure to seat members of disabled ex-servicemen. Seats in this enclosure, which will be on the parade ground, are being allocated by the Ministry of Pensions working in conjunction with the associations.

One of the strongest contingents on the parade, which is to be commanded by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder, will be the British Empire Service League. Their 4,000 representatives will include Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans and members from many other parts of the Commonwealth and Colonies.

There will be 700 Old Contemptibles on parade, and some of the oldest associations such as the South African War Veterans, the Defenders of Ladysmith and the Boer War Veterans will be strongly represented. In the Fellowship of the Services contingent will be the veteran of the parade, a 93 years old Camberwell man who has said he will take part in the march past.

Note to Editors:

The Secretary of the Fellowship of the Services is:

Mr. F.G. Gill,  
7, Chatsworth Way,  
West Norwood,  
London, S.E.27.

Eastern Command.  
9th May, 1953.