

ROYAL AIR FORCE REVIEW

2-FC4440

9. At Odiham in Hampshire the youngest of the Services, the Royal Air Force, was on parade for the Coronation Review by Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

149 Among the hundreds of guests seated in the neighbourhood of the saluting base as the Queen inspected the parade were air attaches from many foreign embassies, including eleven representatives from Soviet Russia who saw spread out on the airfield before them the long lines of ^{MEN +} aircraft representing every branch of the Service.

77. Six massed bands and twelve hundred men and women were drawn up in review order as the escort squadron, ~~preceded by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force,~~ paraded the Colour in slow time past the Queen.

96. As the Colour was borne past the dais on which the Queen stood it was lowered in salute. ^{129 109 THE COLOUR} Then ~~carried~~ carried high again, the escort squadron returned marching now in quick time, ~~as the Duke of Edinburgh, in the uniform of a Marshal of the Royal Air Force and wearing the wings for which he recently qualified, stood at the salute.~~ ~~ATTENTION BESIDE THE QUEEN~~ ○

138- As the march past of the whole parade proceeded, those viewing from afar could see how well ordered the marching was, as always a feature of Royal Air Force training.

163 After lunching in the Officers Mess, the Queen and the Duke began their inspection of the individual units, beginning with ^{THE} fighter aircraft - Sabres - of the Royal Canadian Air Force, for the whole Review had a strong Commonwealth flavour.

Then it was the turn of Bomber Command, the crews drawn up in front of their Canberras to receive the Queen and the Duke as they moved ~~across~~ among the long lines of aircraft - over 300 of them, drawn up in precisely ordered lines.

233 Every branch of the Service had its representatives on parade; every aspect of R.A.F. activity was displayed for Her Majesty to see.

AND TO MEET THE MEN WHO FLY AND SERVE THE PLANES

264 Then with a Sycamore helicopter flying at 87 m.p.h. with an R.A.F. ensign from its winch cable, began the great tribute in the air, followed by the Oxford trainers from Flying Training Command, in the vanguard of the 643 aircraft converging on the rendezvous, from airfields all over Britain, with meticulous timing.

ARACRAFT WHICH SWEEP THE SEAS EVER WATCHFUL FOR AN UNDERWATER ENEMY

303 Three Sunderlands of Coastal Command preceded Lincolns of Bomber Command, later version of the Lancasters which droned across our coasts in 1944.

321 As the speeds increased, so the pattern became more regular.

VAMPIRES

The ~~Venom~~s of Fighter Command and the Royal Australian Air Force

THEY WERE CLOSELY

338 chased by ~~Venom~~s of the Second Tactical Air Force, succeeded in turn by

349 three groups of Meteors from Flying Training and Fighter Command on their heels.

364 The unmistakable shapes of the Sabres from Canada.

371 Then came the newest aircraft yet to come into commission, and the speeds begin to soar, with the paper dart shape of the Avro Vulcan deceptively throttled back.

387 Another Ministry of Supply aircraft, the Gloster Javelin, with the same distinctive wing ~~shape~~, but the swept up tail to mark the ~~greatest~~ difference.

404 The sleek outline ~~outline~~ of the Hawker Hunter with swept back wings, still flying at well below its maximum.

2-504140
AND FINALLY TO CROWN THE REVIEW

AND NEWEST ~~GUARDIAN OF THE SWIFT~~

415

And finally to crown the Review, the record breaking Swift,
flashing in at something like 670 miles an hour, guardian of the Queen's
skins.