

The Royal Air Force is on parade at Odiham, Hampshire. Planes old and new. The men who fly them, and those who keep them flying. For this <sup>is</sup> their ~~greatest~~ <sup>proudest</sup> hour - the Coronation Review by Her Majesty the Queen. ~~D~~

The only other Royal Review was in 1935. And now, the Queen (accompanied by the Duke) pays tribute (on behalf of us all) to great achievements ~~and~~ during eighteen tremendous years. Days of heroic fighter defence. Of unsparing bomber attack and ~~ceaseless~~ <sup>unceasing</sup> coastal vigil. And now - The Jet Age. Members of the W.R.A.F. are inspected, too, proudly watched by their Commandant - the Duchess of Gloucester.

The Duchess of Kent, too, whose husband lost his life during war-time service. ~~with the RAF.~~

The inspection over, the Queen's Colour (escorted by a Colour Party and Escort Squadron) is paraded - followed by nearly twelve hundred men and women of the Service - as they march past their Commander-in-Chief. ~~SOUND~~

~~After the parade~~ The programme in the afternoon, ~~opened with~~ a Royal Salute by the huge parade. ~~SOUND~~

~~Then~~ (driving in an open car) the Queen and the Duke, (proudly wearing his Service wings) tour the long lines of parked aircraft. 318 planes of twenty-three different types - graduating from tiny Chipmunk trainers (in which the Duke learned to fly) to giant Superfortresses.

Air Forces of the Commonwealth are also here and a representative of Canadian Squadrons based in Britain, receives Royal recognition.

The tour continues - through alternating sunshine and shadow - along four parallel lines of aircraft. The Junior Service has truly come of age.

The heavy types - the Washingtons, <sup>the Canberra</sup> Canberras - and ~~often-overworked~~ often-overworked transports. During this tour (which lasted an hour) the Queen also inspected a Section that embraced every aspect of the Force - both in the air and on the ground.

In the Sky above - ~~VENOM~~ Venoms of the Central Fighter Establishment are weaving the Queen's initials. ~~VENOM~~

Royal Air Force Review-- ctd-

Meanwhile- from forty stations throughout Britain-- aircraft were making their way to <sup>the</sup> rendez-vous-- Odiham Airfield- for the greatest fly-past in the history of the Service.

And from the air, we watch them arrive-- the first of 640 aircraft- led by a Bristol Sycamore helicopter- flying at about eighty miles an hour. Then at ~~thirty~~ second intervals--

Chipmunk trainers.

Percival Prentices- ~~and the~~

American Harvards-

\* Air Speed Oxfords- ~~and the~~

All fly across this famous Battle of Britain aerodrome-- to salute the Queen. The roar of bombers-- Lincolns-

*And now* - The whine of jets- Gloster Meteor Fighters

The Canberra- a twin-jet bomber

Sabres - of Canadian Squadrons

And lastly, the R.A.F. of the future:-

The "Victor" - Britain's newest bomber <sup>only just</sup> taken off the secret list. ~~only last week~~

*And the* "Vulcan" - leading the delta-winged craft

So - ~~only~~ in only eighteen years - the R.A.F. has become a great Force - flying high - in the Service of Queen and Country.

*The R.A.F. of 1952 - a great & growing Force - flying higher yet in the Service of Queen & Country*