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Royal Visit - Welcome to Haile Selassie

Portsmouth: Her duty done, the cruiser "Gambia" (dressed overall and flying the Ethiopian Flag) is joined by Shackletons of Coastal Command in paying tribute to a Royal Visitor.

And from the cruiser, Emperor Haile Selassie (escorted by the Duke of Gloucester) comes down the gangway - to renew ties of friendship that were forged in the dark days of war.

After ^{the} Portsmouth ceremonial - the journey to London... And right on time, the Pullman glided into Victoria Station - where a warm and kindly welcome awaited the Royal Guest...

Greetings from the Queen... and a charming old-world salute from the Emperor - who claims descent from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Then Royal introductions.... The Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and other members of the Royal Family.

A welcome, too, for the Duke of Harar - who had accompanied his Father on the long journey. Illness had prevented the Empress from making the visit. Escorted by Her Majesty, the Emperor passed along the line of Civic Dignitaries of London, Statesmen, (headed by the Prime Minister and Mr Eden), and Service Chiefs, who had come to welcome him.

A welcome that was ^{continued} extended to the forecourt of the Station, where the 3rd Battalion, The Grenadier Guards, provided the Guard of Honour.

The Emperor, in ~~naval~~ ^{Field-Marshal's} uniform, wore a cocked hat, plumed with lions' manes.

So, to the traditional State Drive to Buckingham Palace, the Emperor seated with the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in an open Landau.

Surrounded by the pomp of State Ceremony and warmed by the cheers of Londoners, the Royal Visitor, no doubt, recalled his last visit in 1935...

Then, driven from his country by invading armies, he had found refuge, sympathy, and a haven in the heart of Britain.

Now ^{the} returns, ~~xx~~ a proud Monarch and an honoured Guest - on a day of autumnal splendour and pageantry.

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