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Holiday sport and sunshine

2nd August 1955

The peak holiday week of the year came in with that "going away" feeling. With the help of air ferries, motorists were eagerly bridging the Channel - to start that touring holiday.

Other holiday migrants were leaving fickle Britain - bound for the Continental sun-spots to make sure of a deep tan and another label on the suit-case.

But this year, the sunshine stayed at home - and the day-trippers cruised down the river to good old Southend - feeding their appetites on sea breezes or a plate of cockles. And the end of the Pier looked like Petticoat Lane on a Sunday morning.

But there was no time to see what the Butler saw! It was full steam ahead - down the longest pier in Britain - to collar that deck-chair on the beach before the tide came in..

BUT EVEN AT THIS END IT'S NEARLY STANDING ROOM ONLY.

~~Then for 2 miles... until... into the sea...~~

A stroll along the front for a visit to a replica of the "Golden Hind" - which, in contrast to its famous predecessor - nestles in a quiet backwater - by the pier...

Another holiday attraction was a "day with the Navy". And here, at Portsmouth, boys of H.M.S. St. Vincent gave a display of Cutlass Drill. Then the visitors went on an imaginary cruise with the Navy - and shared the fun of the traditional "Crossing the Line" ceremony.

Across the Solent, the presence of the Royal Yacht "Britannia" assured the famous Cowes Week of Royal Patronage, for the Duke of Edinburgh was spending four days at the Regatta...

Meanwhile, Cowes watched, with interest, the patient efforts of a newcomer to the world of sailing, the thirteen year-old Prince Michael of Kent... Under the expert guidance of the yacht designer, Uffa Fox, the young Prince was learning the intricacies of a fascinating art...

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~~...of King George the Fifth~~

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