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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...~~

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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~~with the Duke~~ <sup>soon</sup> The Duke of Edinburgh was out racing in his yacht, "Coweslip" - which, it will be remembered, was a gift to him from the people of Cowes..

~~curly breeze provided~~ In the "Flying Fifteens" Race - ~~the~~ the Duke, at the helm, finished fourth in a class of eighteen - two minutes eleven seconds behind the winner.

<sup>continues</sup> Our holiday sports round-up ~~opens~~ with the Duke losing the toss to Sir William Becher, in a charity cricket match - watched by a huge crowd, at Badminton.

The Duke's eleven included eight test cricketers. Their rivals, the Duke of Beaufort's eleven, took first knock, and faced a hostile field - with Prince Philip in the slips.

During the innings, the Duke bowled eight overs - but found South African test star, Jack McGlew in top form. McGlew made eighty-one.

Facing a total of 272 for eight declared - the Duke's Eleven had to hit out - to win!

Prince Philip made a merry contribution - hitting three boundaries in scoring twenty-two in fifteen minutes.

Finally, that wily old veteran, Tom Goddard bowled the Duke; but not before his side was set for victory.....by four wickets..

Another sporting occasion brought a famous French heroine to Britain. It was Mile Genevieve de Galard, the "Angel" of Dien Bien Phu - who came as the nurse to the French team - competing in the "Wheelchair Olympics" at the National Spinal Injuries Centre, Stoke Mandeville.

A record entry from eighteen countries took part - ~~the~~

The "Wheelchair Basketball" championship brought a series of keenly-fought matches - and one couldn't help admiring the wonderful spirit of these partially-paralysed <sup>men...</sup> ~~players~~

This event was won by the English team...and paying tribute to a brave company - Dr. Roger Bannister, (the world's first four-minute miler) presented the prizes to the Olympic heroes of 1955..