

2442

With the day's early sun glinting on the waves, ships of the Home Fleet went out to meet Britannia as the Royal Yacht came home from Denmark. This was the spectacular climax to the State Visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. In the van, the Navy's Aircraft Carriers.

Ten miles ~~west~~ off Kinnairds Head in Aberdeenshire, the Fleet came to its North Sea meeting with Britannia. A magnificent sight --- and one that may not be seen again, in view of the changes in store for the Royal Navy. But now --- the Royal Salute!

Here the cruiser Superb turns towards the royal yacht --- part of a complicated manoeuvre, calling for first-class station-keeping and seamanship second to none.

Then --- the destroyers.

And as Britannia comes into line, the Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet salutes --- Admiral Sir John Eccles.

The fast minelayer Apollo takes up station astern.

No doubt the future lies in air power; but it's a fair guess that air power will never provide a sight to compete in grandeur with a proud fleet at sea; striding along at twenty knots --- with crews lined up to cheer a homecoming welcome to ~~Elizabeth the Queen~~ Elizabeth the Queen.

From submarines --- to helicopters and the offspring of the aircraft carriers; ~~as grand a picture as you'll~~ see from Invergordon to Plymouth Hoe.