

BR 2452

2452

Dunkirk- Little ships sail again-

July 2nd. '57.

Ramsgate-- The little ships of Britain prepare for sea again., to take part in a journey of remembrance.

~~Cabin cruisers, converted fishing smacks, craft, private yachts and even~~
~~_____~~

For it was from this very spot that- in 1940, these frail boats made the 55 mile trek across the Channel- to save Britain's Expeditionary Force from annihilation.

And proudly joining the flotilla was the Ramsgate lifeboat, which ~~actually~~ actually took part in the original operation. /

On that June day- seventeen long years ago- the summer skies were filled with the scream of dive bombers.

The calm sea was covered with a mighty armada of little vessels, that carried ~~thousands~~ thousands of our brave men from the smoking beaches. /

~~Many~~ Many a little ship did not survive the terrible ordeal. ~~BUT~~ BUT AN ARMY WAS SAVED IN THE MIRACLE OF DUNKIRK. /

~~_____~~
~~_____~~

Now- to another June day- in 1957, ~~when~~ Travelling to Dunkirk in the destroyer "Chieftain", was Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who had come to unveil a memorial to 4700 men of the B.E.F., who have no known grave.

Her Majesty was accompanied by the Duke of Gloucester- ~~_____~~ and General Ganeval- ^{RECEIVED BY} representing the French President.

Detachments of British Servicemen lined the pathway, as the ~~Queen~~ Queen Mother approached the shrine- in the presence of a vast company ~~OF RELATIVES OF THE FALLEN~~ WHO HAD TRAVELLED FROM BRITAIN.

~~_____~~
~~_____~~

~~Now they shared their memories~~ Now they shared their memories. They were happy to share their grief with the Royal visitor, who has ~~been~~ so bravely born her share of sorrow. /

up →

2452

Dunkirk-

-2-

~~The shrine stands at the end of a long avenue flanked by large columns, on which are engraved the names of the dead.~~ (QUIET)

~~Her Majesty talked to many of the relatives who had been asked to remain seated.~~

So to-day, Dunkirk remembers- and in this corner of a foreign field remains a fragrant memory- and a hallowed spirit of sacrifice. /s

Back in England- children of a generation that knows nothing of the horrors of war, (Prince Charles and Princess Anne), join IN A FAMILY FAREWELL

~~their grandmother, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, IS NOW BEGINNING~~

~~her tour of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.~~

She takes with her the good wishes of her devoted family.