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QUEEN: (TOBRUK) HONOURS EMPIRE DEAD.

The Royal yacht Britannia lies in the harbour of war-scarred Tobruk after its voyage from England. On board are Prince Charles and Princess Anne who have come to be reunited with their parents, after being parted from them for five months. On the outer perimeter of Tobruk's seignelines is the war cemetery, which the Queen is to visit. Here nearly 2,700 Commonwealth and Allied troops have their last resting-place. In the barren, dusty soil they lie, the men who repulsed the Afrika Corps, and won for Britain one of the most stirring victories in our history.

Here they fought and died, those men who proudly called themselves "The Desert Rats". Little remains upon the battlefield to tell their story, and yet their story will be told until the end of time. To pay our nation's tribute, Her Majesty the Queen comes to El Adem - another name to stir our memories. On the airfield to welcome her are Sir Alec Kirkbride, the British Minister in Libya, and senior officers of the services in the Middle East.

The royal couple leave immediately for the cemetery. At Her Majesty's own request she stays for twenty minutes more than the scheduled time, walking amongst the graves.

The Australian forces who will be linked forever with the Tobruk battles, have their own memorial. At its feet the Queen and her husband lay a wreath of red poppies. At the same moment, a wreath is laid on behalf of Her Majesty in the French cemetery about three miles away.

And so to Tobruk itself. In the town, which suffered almost constant bombardment during the many sieges, the Queen arrives at the parade ground to inspect guards of honour of the Royal Scots Greys (of which she is Colonel-in-Chief) and of 200 men of the Sherwood Foresters.

The temporary palace of King Idris of Libya, which overlooks Tobruk Harbour, is next to be visited by Her Majesty. There the King, and Queen Fatima, receive them for coffee.

With King Idris, the royal visitors appear on the Palace balcony. Her Majesty wears the Order of Idris, the First, with which the King has just invested her. The Queen invested King Idris with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire.

Now the time has come for the Queen to leave Tobruk and join her children aboard Britannia. At the quayside she says farewell before embarking in the royal barge.

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It is known that one of the Queen's main concerns during her Commonwealth tour has been her separation from her children. Now Her Majesty and Prince Phillip go out to join them and to journey with them, home to Britain.

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