

QUEEN MOTHER AT DUNKIRK AND LONDON AIRPORT:

The destroyer H.M.S. Chieftain comes into harbour at Dunkirk, where a French guard of honour salutes two royal guests - the Queen Mother and the Duke of Gloucester. Representing President Coty of France is General Pierre Ganeval. The Queen Mother - and hundreds of other Britons - are here to pay tribute to the thousands who lost their lives here 17 years ago, in the battle of Dunkirk Beaches.

Ever since the war, Dunkirk has been a place of pilgrimage for the families and friends of those who died; to look, when they could on one particular tombstone. But 4,000 British soldiers, sailors and airmen who gave their lives here have no known graves. It is in memory of these that the Queen Mother has come to unveil a new memorial in the British cemetery.

Alongside the sixteen hundred relatives are some of the men who crossed the Channel in that immortal armada of little boats - but for whom the lists of names now being unveiled would have been far longer.

The Queen Mother looks at the new memorial before turning to speak to the hundreds who have made the pilgrimage. She tells them: "We pay tribute to the undying memory of all those brave soldiers, sailors and airmen who died in the hour of seeming defeat in order that, in the fulness of time, it should be turned to victory".

Two days later, the Queen Mother arrives at London Airport for the start of her journey to the young Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Princess Margaret, Prince Charles and Princess Anne are here to see her off. Prince Charles manages to hold up the departure for several minutes so that he and his sister can have a good look at the Britannia airliner. But eventually the goodbyes are said, the Queen Mother takes her leave of the official party, and the royal children are left in their aunt's charge.

The whole journey is scheduled to take 19 hours - and the first stop is Kane, nearly three thousand miles away. The Queen Mother's cheerful energy, as she takes her full share of royal duties, makes us forget that many grandmothers in their late fifties, would be starting to take things easily. But that is not the way of the Queen Mother, Britain's most tireless roving ambassador.