

The last ~~night~~ ^{day} but one of the Queen's Tour of the Commonwealth, the Royal Yacht Britannia had anchored in a little bay on the coast of Cornwall; and as the mist was clearing on the following morning, the Home Fleet under the command of Admiral Sir Michael Denny, flying his flag in the battleship H.M.S. Vanguard, sailed out to take over escort duties. And the guns of the Fleet roared a Royal Salute.

~~With Britannia in the lead, the Home Fleet sailed through the English Channel, past the Scilly Isles, and on to the Bay of Biscay. The fleet was met by the British Fleet, and the Queen and the Queen Mother were welcomed by the British Fleet. And with the fleet the Queen and the Queen Mother who had gone on board the Britannia.~~

Then --- in the early morning of the last day --- the Royal Yacht came into the Thames Estuary. Pacific, Indian Ocean and Mediterranean lay in the past; the present steered its course between the narrowing shores of Essex and Kent. This was journey's end; soon it ~~would~~ ^{was} be old London saying --- "We're glad to have you home again!"

So the Queen's yacht --- bearing itself with queenly grace --- sailed ~~xxx~~ westward to old Tower Bridge, where the Lord Mayor of London came out to meet the royal travellers ~~xxxx~~; and cranes alongside dipped in salute as Britannia stopped engines and dropped anchor.

~~The~~ hence that ~~the~~ ~~xxxx~~, the Queen Mother went out with Princess Margaret to give her elder daughter and her family --- a family welcome.

The long, long voyage was nearly over. They left Britannia in the barge that was to carry them ~~xxxxxxx~~ up river --- to the pier of the ancient city of Westminster.

cul / And now once more --- the Queen steps on ~~the~~ British soil..... in the very heart of the capital, for warm greetings by other members of the Royal Family

And officials welcomes, too, from Lord Alanbrooke --- from the Archbishop of Canterbury --- and ^{from} Sir Winston Churchill.

The Guard of Honour was mounted by the 3rd Battalion, the Grenadier Guards.

And now --- as if it were Coronation Day all over again --- the drive through the streets to Buckingham Palace; and all London --- and London's visitors --- waved and smiled and cheered themselves hoarse.

The Queen Mother and Princess Margaret had gone on ahead --- and they stood watching the royal homecoming from the balcony of Buckingham Palace. x

Watching --- as the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and their children drove down the Mall past those cheering thousands --- many of whom had waited for this moment from the night before.

*The Arch^b of Canterbury speaks for us all
when he says: -*

WELCOME HOME TO QUEEN ELIZABETH.

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(Cue = --- from the night before.)

WOMAN: Yes --- it's a long wait..... and the night was cold and rainy. But they took rugs and a macintosh --- and a thermos and sandwiches. And they all said that every minute of the waiting was well worth while --- to see the Queen come home.

There they go --- racing up to the Palace railings as the gates are closed --- to get another glimpse of the gracious lady we're so proud to call our Queen. I've seen every bit of the Royal Journey on the films, and I've read it all up in the newspapers; and I know how they feel. They just couldn't miss the chance to say: "Welcome home, your Majesty! Welcome home --- and well done!"

? MAN: The Archbishop of Canterbury speaks for us all when he says: