

Elaborate decorations in the streets of Johore marked a threefold cause for celebration in that strip of territory in the southern end of Malaya. First --- it was the birthday of the Sultan; and that alone was enough to bring out the crowds — and set the feet of troops marching in procession; --- for the Sultan is over eighty. More than a million people had come to do him honour.

The Sultan of Johore is the oldest ruler within the British Commonwealth of Nations. He ascended the throne of his little state as long ago as 1895, when Victoria was Queen in far-off Britain. But the second reason for the festivities is concerned more closely with the Sultan's consort. He met her in London, during an air-raid of the Second World War. And, this day, the Lady Marcella Ibrahim, in the presence of the illustrious few, was crowned.

At night, Johore was a blaze of illumination as the ~~celebrations~~ celebrations continued.....for the third reason. This was also — the Diamond Jubilee of the Sultan. Thus, he shared with Queen Victoria the distinction of a reign of sixty years.