

**The following is a re-type of a museum document detailing the events during the Royal Tour to South Africa. There are a couple of word(s) that are undecipherable and have been marked in red.**

**The original document can be viewed at the end of this re-typed document.**

**HMS VANGUARD  
AT PORTSMOUTH  
JAN 31<sup>st</sup> 1947**

**ROYAL TOUR TO SOUTH AFRICA**

**EMBARKATION AND OUTWARD PASSAGE**

**FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JAN**

- 1500 All work ceased in H.M. Dockyard
- 1600 VANGUARD and Ship's in company (Negative Reserve Fleet) dressed overall  
Reserve Fleet dressed with Masthead Ensigns (Signal from Central S.S.)  
VIPs assembled at Harbour Station to meet Their Majesties.
- 1615 Royal Guard with King's colour and Seaman Band of R.M.B. assembled on South  
Railway Jetty.
- 1620 VANGUARD manned ship.
- 1626 Royal Train (displaying Union flag and Union flag of South Africa) arrived at Harbour Station.  
C. in C. Portsmouth, after meeting Their Majesties returned to S.R.J. in readiness for their  
arrival.
- 1635 Royal Family arrived at S.R.J., ALERT sounded,  
Received by C. in C. P A.S. etc.  
King then walked to a position opposite the King's Colour and facing it, Royal Guard  
'Presented Arms' and Band played the Nation Anthem (King's Colour lowered).  
Royal Guard 'Sloped' and 'Ordered' arms.  
H.M. then inspected Royal Guard.
- 1642 Their Majesties, accompanied by the Princesses, Queen Mary, Duke of Gloucester, Princess  
Royal and Duchess of Kent then embarked in VANGUARD and were received onboard by  
Captain AGNEW,  
Alert, Pipe and National Anthem.  
Royal Marine Guard on Quarterdeck brought to the 'present' and the executive order for  
this was the signal to break the Royal Standard at the Main, Lord High Admiral's Flag at the  
Starboard M.H. and the Union Flag at the Port M.H. (Vanguard hauled down Masthead  
Ensigns and Pendant)  
(Several seconds elapsed after the King stepped onboard before the Royal Standard was  
broken).  
The Breaking of the Royal Standard was the executive order to Ships in company and Fort  
Blockhouse to fire a Royal Salute.  
(Vanguard did NOT fire a Royal Salute)
- 1700 Signal executed to unman ship.

- 1715 'Ceremonial' sunset (Full Band). Actual time of sunset was 1649 but this was delayed owing to Royal Family's arrival.  
 Royal Standard floodlit, Admiral Top and three Stern lights switched on  
 C. in C. P Flag floodlit in Victory.  
 H.M. The King made signal to C. in C. P requesting him to carry out duties of the Port whilst Royal Standard was flying within the precincts of his command.
- 1750 Queen Mary, Duke of Gloucester, Princess Royal and Duchess of Kent left ship to entrain for London (No ceremony).
- 2000 H.M. The King held dinner party onboard VANGUARD.

### **SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FEB**

- 0700 Ships (Negative Reserve Fleet) dressed overall by signal from Central S.S. Reserve Fleet dressed with Masthead ensigns only.  
 VANGUARD did NOT dress overall.
- 0702 VANGUARD and Ships in sight of her 'Manned Ship'.
- 0710 Trinity House Vessel 'PATRICIA' with Elder Brethren onboard weighed and proceeded flying Trinity House ensign at Staff, Trinity House Jack at the Jackstaff, White Ensign at the Foretruck and the Flag of the Elder Brethren at Starboard M.H.
- 0720 VANGUARD slipped (no ceremony on jetty) and preceded by Patricia proceeded out of harbour.  
 Vernon and Fort Blockhouse Manned and Cheered Ship.
- Their Majesties and the Two Princesses were on a specially designed platform on 'B' turret.  
 Ships and Establishments fired Royal Salute as VANGUARD passed Fort Blockhouse.
- 0745 Military Saluting Battery fired Royal Salute.
- 0750 Portsmouth Local Flotilla proceeded ahead to take up station.
- 0755 T.H.V. Patricia hauled out of line to Starboard and Cheered Ship as VANGUARD passed.  
 Portsmouth Local Flotilla formed in single line ahead half mile ahead of VANGUARD on passing Outer Spit Buoy.
- 0830 Local Flotilla formed in Screen Diagram No. 5A (half distances) by signal from VANGUARD after rounding Nab Tower.  
 To synchronise movements on altering course, VANGUARD made all alterations of course by Blue Pendant, S.O. Destroyers executing 'B U ' at same time.
- 0922 Mosquito and Beaufighter escorts joined and circled VANGUARD anti-clockwise.
- 1030 Aircraft returned to base.
- 1036 Home Fleet sighted.  
 Local Flotilla formed in single line abreast ahead of VANGUARD.

- 1042 Local Flotilla altered course 90 degrees inwards, Leading Ships of Divisions altering a further 90 degrees to pass either side of VANGUARD. VANGUARD Manned Ship. VANGUARD steamed through the lines, each Destroyer Manned and Cheered ship.
- 1050 Home Fleet steaming in two columns 1.5 miles ahead of VANGUARD and steaming towards.
- 1100 Home Fleet fired Royal Salute.
- 1102 VANGUARD passed between the lines.  
Home Fleet dressed with Masthead Ensigns and Guards and Bands paraded, Ship's Companies manned to Cheer Ship and on passing Bands played the National Anthem, Guards at the 'Present' and all ships flying the signal 'Bon Voyage' etc (Int'l Code) and VANGUARD replying 'Thank You' (Int'l Code).
- 1120 H.M. The King made signal to Home Fleet and Portsmouth Command to 'Splice Main Brace' (This did not include VANGUARD).  
Escort then formed up as follows:
- 1125 Three Helicopters arrived from Portland, one made landing on Q.D. to receive Press material etc., taking off and in company with remainder returned to Portland.
- 1415 French Battleship 'Richelieu', flying flag of Rear Admiral F.P. JOURDAIN, with two French Destroyers in company sighted. A signal previously received stated they would rendezvous with VANGUARD at 1500 to salute Their Majesties.
- 1500 RICHELIEU closed to one mile on starboard beam of VANGUARD with her Ship's Company at Man Ship stations.  
VANGUARD and Escort Manned Ship and paraded Guards and Bands.
- 1505 RICHELIEU broke 'UNION' flag at Foremast and fired Royal Salute.  
She then asked permission to be allowed to continue her route to which H.M. replied 'Certainly' also thanking her for her friendly gesture. Signal was also made to the French President thanking him for his token of Friendship to the Royal Family.
- 1625 Shifted 16 breadth Standard to 8 breadth (weather beginning to worsen).  
Signal made to Escort that Masthead ensigns and Jacks may be hauled down after dark but must be re-hoisted again before daylight. VANGUARD hauled down Lord High Admiral's flag, Union Flag and Jack after dark owing to weather

## **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> FEB**

Before dawn the hoisting of Masthead ensigns and Jacks was postponed until weather improved. VANGUARD did NOT re-hoist L. H. A. and Union flags at the Fore.  
Jackstuffs of Cleopatra and Diadem carried away during the night, signalled they would ship spares when required or improvise.  
Signal received that Portuguese Squadron consisting of Sloop BARTOLOMEW DIAS and Destroyer DAO INEZ (with three aircraft) were sailing from LISBON this evening to salute Their Majesties.

Expect to R/V approx 1430 tomorrow Monday (Naval Attache Lisbon onboard Bart. Dias).  
Weather too bad to allow men aloft to shift Standard which by now was badly frayed.

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb**

Weather still too bad to shift Standard which was badly torn (approximately half left and that, tattered).

H.M. aware of this and although Captain suggested turning down wind to shift it and to allow escort to dress with Masthead ensigns and hoist Jacks etc in readiness for Portuguese Squadron H.M. Did NOT approve.

H.M. made signal to Portuguese Squadron suggesting it was not feasible in view of weather to make the R.V, they replied giving their course and speed with apparently no desire to miss the opportunity of paying their respects.

At 1240 D/F bearings obtained of Portuguese Squadron and VANGUARD and Escort altered 40 degrees to port to west. This alteration made it possible to hoist necessary ensigns, L .H. A. and Union Flags and change the Standard. (Jacks were NOT hoisted).

His Majesty expressed the wish to retain his 'BATTERED Royal Standard' and this was accordingly handed to his Naval Equerry for safe keeping.

1400 Portuguese Squadron sighted Port Bow, distance 7 miles.

Escort resume M.L.A.

Bartolomew Diaz (wearing Flag of Commodore DA FORCA METROPOLE) and Destroyer Dao Inez closed on port bow and fired Royal salute breaking WHITE ENSIGN on Foremast, they then passed astern and altered course 180 degrees, returning to Lisbon.

His Majesty made suitable signal to B D thanking her, especially for coming out in such heavy weather. Signal was also made to Portuguese President thanking him for his courtesy.

### **MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEB (By Curator: NOTE 4<sup>TH</sup> FEB 1947 was a TUESDAY)**

1100 St JAMES relieved by St KITTS, the former taking mails from Vanguard.

After transfer of mails St JAMES dropped back and then came up Starboard side and Cheered Their Majesties on leaving the Escort suitable signals exchanged. St James proceeding to Lisbon to fuel.

1800 Shifted Standard (10 breadth). Old one badly ripped.

Made signal to Escort that Masthead Ensigns and Jacks are to be hoisted at 0700 5<sup>th</sup> Feb (sunrise 0752)

Vanguard will hoist L.H.A. and Union Flags at the Fore at same time.

Ship is passing Canary Islands during forenoon.

## VISIT OF ROYAL FAMILY TO ESCORTS AT SEA FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEB

Their Majesties accompanied by the Two Princesses, Two Ladies in waiting and Two Equerries arranged to visit ships of the Home Fleet Escort before parting company.

1100 – 1525	IMPLACABLE	To witness flying programme Her Majesty to speak to the Ship's Company (Her Majesty launched Implacable 1942) Have lunch onboard and walk round ship.
1500 – 1525	CLEOPATRA	Introduced to Officers, Ship's Co, March Past.
1525 – 1550	DIADEM	“ “ “ “
1550 – 1605	ST KITTS	“ “ “ “
1610		Return to Vanguard.

Royal Standards (10) and Lord High Admirals Flags (8) transferred to St Kitts previous day, St Kitts in turn transferred one of each to Implacable, Cleopatra and Diadem, arrangements being made for Implacable, a Standard etc to be transferred to St Kitts when Their Majesties visit to the former had been completed. Arrangements also made for representatives of the Press and B.B.C. Commentator (Frank Gillard) to arrive onboard each ship prior to Their Majesties, being transferred ship to ship in Vanguard's motor cutter.

1035 Vanguard and escort Stopped Engines and Stopped ship's way by going astern. Implacable stationed on a suitable bearing to provide a lee.  
Vanguard hoisted out Royal barge and motor cutter.

1055 Press representatives left ship for Implacable.

1103 Royal Party embarked in barge, ALERT and PIPE.  
(Vanguard did not parade Guard and Band the latter being busily engaged in rehearsal for Ship's concert).  
Barge flying 4 breadth silk Royal Standard (on loan from Royal Yacht) and White Ensign.

1108 Barge arrived alongside Implacable. Guard and Band paraded, Alert on Bugle, Pipe and Full National Anthem, Guard at the 'Present'.  
Royal Standard, L.H.A. and Union Flags broken on Foremast and hauled down in Vanguard, the latter dressing with Masthead Ensigns as H.M. stepped onboard.  
Officers introduced and Guard inspected.  
Implacable then ordered Vanguard to take 'Guide' and with St Kitts as Attendant Destroyer parted company for flying programme, rejoining on completion.

1426 Royal Party left Implacable for Cleopatra (in Royal Barge).  
Implacable paraded Guard and Band.  
Alert on Bugle and Pipe, Guard at the 'Present' and Band playing Full National Anthem.  
Ships Company massed to Cheer Ship.

1431 Royal Party embarked in Cleopatra, Royal Standard broken at Main L.H.A. and Union Flags broken on Foremast and hauled down in Implacable.  
Guard and 'Seamen' Band paraded. Alert on Bugle and Pipe.  
Band played Full National Anthem, Guard at the 'Present'  
Officers introduced, H.M. inspected Guard.

- 1452 Royal Party left Cleopatra for Diadem, Guard and Band paraded, Alert and Pipe, Full National Anthem, Guard at the 'Present' and Ship's Company massed to Cheer Ship.
- 1455 Royal Party embarked in Diadem, Guard paraded (Band not carried), Alert and Pipe, Buglers sounded 'General Salute', Guard at 'Present', Royal Standard etc broken as H.M. stepped onboard and hauled down in Cleopatra.  
H.M. inspected Guard, Officers introduced and Ship's Co marched past.  
On leaving Diadem, Guard paraded, Alert, Pipe, General Salute and Ship's Company massed to cheer ship.
- 1515 Embarked in St Kitts. Seamen Guard paraded, Pipe. Royal Standard etc broken on foremast and hauled down in Diadem.  
Officers introduced, Guard inspected and Ship's Company marched past.
- 1525 Left St Kitts. Seamen Guard paraded. Pipe.  
Royal Standard L.H.A. and Union Flags hauled down in St Kitts as His Majesty stepped into the Royal Barge and re-hoisted in Vanguard.  
Note:-  
This was a departure from previous procedure when the Royal Standard etc was broken in each ship as H.M. stepped onboard and hauled down in ship from which he had disembarked at same time. This procedure was at His Majesty's wish, he being of the opinion that when he left St Kitts he had completed inspecting Squadron and that Standard etc should then be in his Flagship.
- 1530 Royal Family embarked Vanguard. Bugle and Pipe.  
Note:-  
NO gun salutes fired. Guards and Bands, where applicable, were only paraded in ship which H.M. was actually visiting, not in ships en route.

## HOME FLEET ESCORT PARTING COMPANY ON RELIEF BY 'NIGERIA'

### SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> FEB

- 1100 Implacable and St Kitts proceeded ahead to take up station prior to parting company and to fly off aircraft for 'Fly Past'.
- 1200 Cleopatra and Diadem proceeded ahead.
- 1200 Nigeria (Relief escort) sighted.
- 1350 Vanguard manned ship and paraded Guard and Band.
- 1356 Nigeria fired Royal Salute and dressed with Masthead Ensigns.
- 1359 Nigeria passed to Port (opposite course), Guard and Band paraded, ship manned, Guard at the 'Present' and Band playing National Anthem.  
Nigeria subsequently took station astern 4 cables.
- 1409 'Fly Past' by 24 aircraft of Implacable.
- 1410 Implacable, St Kitts, Cleopatra and Diadem steamed past to Port.
- |            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| IMPLACABLE | - | Guard at 'Present'   |
|            |   | Band playing National Anthem                                 |
|            |   | Ship's Company massed to Cheer Ship.                         |
| ST KITTS   | - | Ship's Company manned to Cheer Ship.                         |
| CLEOPATRA  | - | Guard at the 'Present', Seamen Band playing National Anthem  |
|            |   | Ship's Company massed to Cheer Ship.                         |
| DIADEM     | - | Guard at the 'Present', Ship's Company massed to Cheer Ship. |
- Their Majesties watched Steam Past from Platform on 'B' turret.
- 1450 Nigeria closed to transfer Official Mail, News reels etc and was then stationed 4 cables on Port beam.

### TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEB

- 1745 S.S. CAPETOWN CASTLE, having requested our position previously, asked permission to steam through the lines, this was approved.  
Ship was dressed with Red Ensigns at both Mastheads and Passengers Cheered Their Majesties on passing . . . . . sounded on siren.

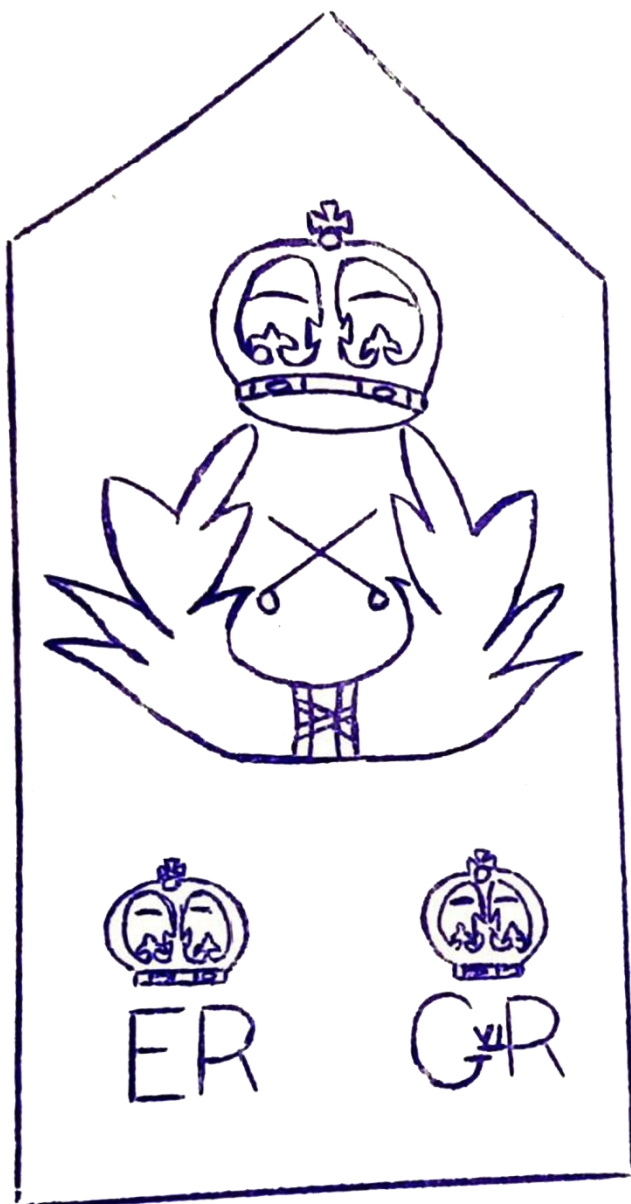
### SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEB

- 1100 H.M. Ships, NEREIDE and ACTEON joined escort, on meeting, fired Royal Salute, and dressed with M.H. Flags with 1<sup>st</sup> Gun. Ship's Companies massed to Cheer Ship.



## **MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> FEB**

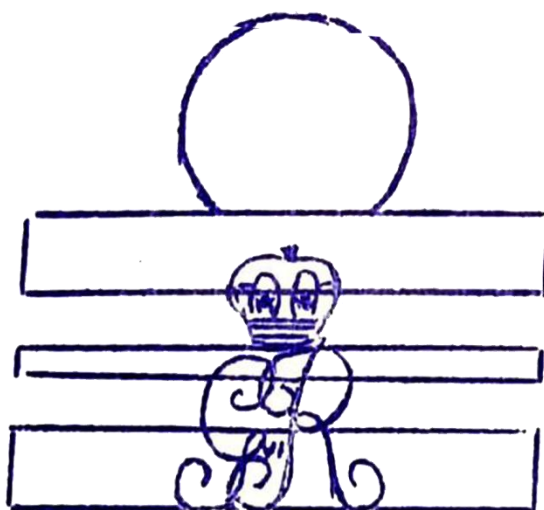
- 0630 H.M.S.A.S. GOOD HOPE, NATAL and TRANSVAAL, arrived and took up station 1 mile ahead of VANGUARD in line abreast 6 cables apart (Dressed with S.A. Ensign at M.H. and Staff and S.A. Jack at Jackstaff when in station.)
- 0740 NIGERIA, NEREIDE and ACTEON parted company (No Ceremony). **S.A.M.F.** Frigate steamed past and Cheered Ship.
- 0815 Embarked Pilot, Paraded Guard and Band.
- 0910 Secured alongside. VANGUARD dressed overall.
- 0940 Governor General (The Right Hon VAN ZYL) and General Smuts came onboard. Alert, Guard and Band. 1<sup>st</sup> 6 bars of National Anthem followed by DIE STEM (S.A. National Anthem in full). Received by H.M.'s. Private Sec. who presented Captain AGNEW and thence to Royal Apartments. Guard not inspected.
- 0955 Governor General and Party left ship (No ceremony, except for Alert).
- 1000 KING left Royal Apartment (White Uniform, Negative Sword).  
Royal Guard on Quarter Deck 'Present' ARMS. Band played GOD SAVE THE KING.  
H.M. inspects Guard. Piped over the side.  
As H.M. stepped ashore Royal Standard, Lord High Admiral and Union Flags hauled down, (VANGUARD hoisted M.H. Ensigns). Local Battery fired Royal salute and with 1<sup>st</sup> Gun, Royal Standard broken at Government House.  
Naval Guard of Honour on jetty presented arms and military band played GOD SAVE THE KING and DIE STEM.
- Notes - VANGUARD didn't fire Royal salute, requesting this as horses of Mounted Police on jetty were not trained for gunfire.  
H.M. embarked and disembarked in all, 4 times from VG. **????**, and ship has not yet fired Royal Salute.



H.M. The King's Shoulder  
Badge in White Uniform.

' E R ' below the Crown  
signifies that King George VI  
as A.D.C. to King Edward VIII

Each reigning Sovereign  
wears a similar inscription  
signifying he was A.D.C. to he  
predecessor.



## DISTRIBUTION OF ROYAL TRAFFIC

1. Royal Cypher Office under supervision of Mr Bayne (Royal Staff – Member of the Foreign Office) with 2 P.O. Tels (Specially Trained) deal entirely with Royal Traffic Code and Cypher 'IN' and 'OUT'.
2. 'IN' Cypher and Codes to Royal Cypher Office who are responsible for deciphering, distributing, and logging (easily Distinguished by indicators).  
'OUT' Cypher and Codes to Royal Cypher Office for Cyphering etc. the S.D.O. (for DTG) and to B.R.R. for transmission (Acquaint chits used both by S.D.O. and B.R.R.)

'IN' P/L (V/S & W/T) to S.D.O. Distribute to Naval Equerry (Lt Cdr Ashmore), Press Secretary (Capt (S) Richie) and copy for Royal Cypher office for necessary action and logging. Royal Cypher office is responsible for Private Secretaries' traffic mainly consisting of Final Arrangements for various dates of Royal Tour (Addressed to King's Private Sec). These are passed to Cypher office for all action and logging. Greetings from the various ???????? and ships at sea of different nationalities distributed to Naval Equerry, Press Sec, and cypher office (usually replied to by Naval Equerry).

Signals of general information such as escort movements, weather reports and anything of interest to Royal Family, distributed to Press Sec, Naval Equerry and cypher office.

- Notes.
1. 1 Ldg Hand (Ldg Sig) detailed to attend on Press Sec and Naval Equerry.
  2. Royal Cypher office keeps logs of all Royal traffic.
  3. All Greetings – particular attention being paid to all private greetings being replied to
  4. Encyphered traffic: Ordinary Typex machines usually used, but special drums and settings carried (supplied by Royal Cypher Staff).

# ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



(3)

H.M.S. VANGUARD  
AT PORTSMOUTH  
JAN 31st 1947

ROYAL GUARD TO SOUTH AFRICA  
EMBARKATION AND OUTWARD PASSAGE

## ALL AT SEA

- 1500 All work ceased in H.M. Dockyard.
- 1600 VANGUARD and Ship's in company (Negative Reserve Fleet) dressed overall.
- Reserve Fleet dressed with Masthead Buisson (Signal from Central S.S. V.I.P.s assembled at Harbour Station to meet Their Majesties.
- 1615 Royal Guard with King's colour and Season Band of R.N.S. assembled on South Railway Jetty.
- 1620 VANGUARD moored ship.
- 1626 Royal Train (displaying Union Flag and Union Flag of South Africa) arrived at Harbour Station.
- C. in C. Portsmouth, after meeting Their Majesties returned to S.R.J. in readiness for their arrival.
- 1635 Royal Family arrived at S.R.J., ALERT sounded, Received by C. in C. P. A.S. etc.
- King then walked to a position opposite the King's Colour and facing it, Royal Guard "Presented Arms" and Band played the National Anthem (Kings Colour Lowered).
- Royal Guard "Sloped" and "Ordered" arms.
- H.M. then inspected Royal Guard.
- 1642 Their Majesties, accompanied by the Princesses, Queen Mary, Duke of Gloucester, Princess Royal and Duchess of Kent then embarked in VANGUARD and were received onboard by Captain AGNEW.
- Alert, Pipe and National Anthem.
- Royal Marine Guard on Quarterdeck brought to the "PRESENT" ~~etc~~ and the executive order for this was the signal to break the Royal Standard at the Main, Lord High Admiral's Flag at the Starboard M.H. and the Union Flag at the Port M.H. (Vanguard hauled down Masthead Buisson and Pendant)
- (Several seconds elapsed after the King Stepped aboard before the Royal Standard was broken)
- The Breaking of the Royal Standard was the executive order to Ships in company and Port Blockhouse to fire a Royal Salute.
- (Vanguard did NOT fire a Royal Salute)
- 1700 Signal executed to Unman ship.
- 1715 "Ceremonial" sunset (Full Band). Actual time of sunset was 1649 but this was delayed owing to Royal Family's arrival.
- Royal Standard floodlit, Admiral Top and three Stern lights switched on. C. in C. P. Flag floodlit in Victory.
- H.M. The King made signal to C. in C. P. requesting him to carry out duties of the Port whilst Royal Standard was flying within the precincts of his command.
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- 2000 H.M. The King held dinner party onboard VANGUARD

SATURDAY 1st FEB.

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- 1120 H.M. The King made signal to Home Fleet and Portsmouth Command to "Splice Main Brace" (This did not include VANGUARD)  
Escort then formed up as follows:

Cleopatra ... Vanguard

30

4-C

Diadem

Implacable with 100 astern



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Signal made to Escort that Masthead ensigns and Jacks may be hauled down after dark but must be rehoisted again before daylight. VANGUARD hauled down Lord High Admiral's flag, Union Flag and Jack after dark owing to weather

#### SUNDAY 2nd FEB.

Before dawn the hoisting of Masthead ensigns and Jacks was postponed until weather improved. VANGUARD did NOT rehoist L H A and Union flags at the Fore.  
Junkstuffs of Cleopatra and Maiden carried away during the night, Signalled they would ship spars when required or improvise.  
Signal received that Portuguese Squadron consisting of Sloop BARTOLOMEU DIAS and Destroyer DIO LUCAS (with three aircraft) were sailing from LISBON this evening to salute Their Majesties.  
Report to R/V approx 1400 tomorrow Monday (Naval Attache Lisbon onboard Port. Dias)  
Weather too bad to allow men aloft to shift Standard which by now was badly frayed.

#### MONDAY 3rd FEB

Weather still too bad to shift Standard which was badly torn (Approximately half left and that, tattered)  
H.M. aware of this and although Captain suggested turning down wind to shift it and to allow escort to dress with Masthead ensigns and hoist Jacks etc in readiness for Portuguese Squadron H.M. Did NOT approve.  
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His Majesty expressed the wish to retain his "BATTERED" Royal Standard and this was accordingly handed to his Naval Secretary for safe keeping

400 Portuguese Squadron sighted Port bow, distance 7 miles.  
 Escort resumed M.L.A.  
 Bartolomeu Diaz (wearing Flag of Commodore DA FORÇA METROPOLIS) and  
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 Portuguese President thanking him for his courtesy.

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 Starboard side and cheered Their Majesties on leaving the Escort,  
 suitable signals exchanged. St James proceeding to Lisbon to fuel.  
 1800 Shifted Standard (10 breadth). Old one badly ripped.  
 Made signal to Escort that Masthead Ensigns and Jacks are to be  
 hoisted at 0700 5th Feb. (sunrise 0752)  
 Vanguard will hoist L.H.A and Union Flags at the Fore at same time.  
 Ship is passing Canary Islands during forenoon.

VISIT OF ROYAL FAMILY TO ESCORTS AT SEA FRIDAY 7TH FEB.

Their Majesties, accompanied by the Two Princesses, Two Ladies in  
 Waiting and Two Equerries arranged to visit ships of the Home Fleet  
 Escort before parting company.  
 Visits arranged as follows.

1100 - 1525	IMPLACABLE, ....	To witness flying programme Her Majesty to speak to the Ships Company. (Her Majesty launched Implacable 1942) Have lunch aboard and walk round ship.
1500 - 1525	CLEOPATRA	Introduced to Officers, Ships Co. Arch Past.
1525 - 1550	DIADFM	" " "
1550 - 1605	ST KITTS	" " "
1610		Return to Vanguard.

Royal Standards (10) and Lord High Admirals Flags (8) transferred  
 to St Kitts previous day. St Kitts in turn transferred one of  
 each to Implacable, Cleopatra and Diadem, arrangements being made for  
 Implacable's Standard etc to be transferred to St Kitts when Their  
 Majesties visit to the former had been completed. Arrangements also  
 made for Representatives of the Press and B.B.C. Commentator (Frank  
 Gillard) to arrive onboard each ship prior to Their Majesties,  
 being transferred ship to ship in Vanguard's motor cutter.

1035 Vanguard and escort Stopped Engines and Stopped ship's way by  
 going astern. Implacable stationed on a suitable bearing to provide  
 a lee.  
 Vanguard hoisted out Royal barge and motor cutter.  
 1055 Press Representatives left ship for Implacable.



- 1103 Royal Party embarked in barge. ALERT and PIPE.  
(Vanguard did not parade Guard and Band the latter being busily engaged in rehearsal for Ships concert)  
Barge flying 4 breadth silk Royal Standard (on loan from Royal Yacht) and White Ensign
- 1108 Barge arrived alongside Implacable. Guard and Band paraded, Alert on Bugle, Pipe and Full National Anthem. Guard at the "Present" Royal Standard, L H A and Union Flags broken on Foremast and hauled down in Vanguard, the latter dressing with Masthead Ensigns as H.M. Stepped onboard.  
Officers introduced and Guard inspected.  
Implacable then ordered Vanguard to take "Guide" and with St Kitts as Attendant Destroyer parted company for flying programme, rejoining on completion.
- 1426 Royal Party left Implacable for Cleopatra (in Royal Barge).  
Implacable paraded Guard and Band,  
Alert on Bugle and Pipe, Guard at the "Present" and Band playing Full National Anthem.  
Ships Company massed to cheer ship.
- 1431 Royal Party embarked in Cleopatra. Royal Standard broken at Main L H A and Union Flags broken on Foremast and hauled down in Implacable. Guard and "Seamen" Band paraded. Alert on Bugle and Pipe.  
Band played Full National Anthem, Guard at the Present.  
Officers introduced, H.M. inspected Guard.
- 1552 Royal Party left Cleopatra for Diadem. Guard and Band paraded, Alert and Pipe, Full National Anthem, Guard at the Present and Ship,s Company massed to cheer ship.
- 1455 Royal Party embarked in Diadem. Guard paraded (Band not carried) Alert and Pipe, Buglers sounded "General Salute", Guard at the Present. Royal Standard etc Broken as H.M. stepped onboard and hauled down in Cleopatra.  
H.M. inspected Guard, Officers introduced and Ship,s Co. marched past.  
On leaving Diadem, Guard paraded, Alert, Pipe, General Salute and Ship,s Company massed to cheer ship.
- 1515 Embarked in St Kitts. Seaman Guard paraded, Pipe.  
Royal Standard etc broken on foremast and hauled down in Diadem.  
Officers introduced, Guard inspected and Ships Company marched Past.
- 1525 Left St Kitts. Seaman Guard paraded, Pipe.  
Royal Standard, L H A and Union Flags hauled down in St Kitts as His Majesty stepped into the Royal Barge and rehoisted in Vanguard.  
Note:-  
This was a departure from previous procedure when the Royal Standard etc was broken in each ship as H.M. Stepped onboard and hauled down in ship from which he had disembarked at same time.  
This procedure was at His Majesty,s wish, he being of the opinion that when he left St Kitts he had completed inspecting Squadron and that Standard etc should then be in his Flagship.
- 1530 Royal Family embarked in Vanguard. Bugle and Pipe.

Note :- NO gun salutes fired. Guards and Bands, where applicable, were only paraded in ship which H.M. was actually visiting, not in ships en route



HOME FLEET ESCORT PARTING COMPANY ON RELIEF BY "NIGERIA."

SATURDAY 8th FEB.

- 1100 Implacable and St Kitts proceeded ahead to take up station prior to parting company and to fly off aircraft for "Fly Past"
- 1200 Cleopatra and Diadem proceeded ahead,
- 1200 Nigeria (Relief escort) sighted.
- 1350 Vanguard manned ship and paraded Guard and Band
- 1356 Nigeria fired Royal Salute and dressed with Masthead Ensigns.
- 1359 Nigeria passed to Port (opposite course), Guard and Band paraded, Ship manned, Guard at the "Present" and Band playing National Anthem, Nigeria subsequently took station astern 4 cables.
- 1409 "Fly Past" by 24 aircraft of Implacable.
- 1410 Implacable, St Kitts, Cleopatra and Diadem steamed past to Port.

IMPLACABLE...Guard at the Present  
Band playing National Anthem  
Ship's Company massed to Cheer Ship

ST KITTS.....Ship's Company massed to Cheer Ship

Cleopatra...Guard at the Present, Seamen Band playing National Anthem  
Ship's Company massed to Cheer Ship

DIADEM.....Guard at the Present, Ship's Company massed to Cheer Ship

Their Majesties watched Steam Past from Platform on "B" turret.

- 1450 Nigeria closed to transfer Official Mail, News reels etc and was then stationed 4 cables on Port beam.

TUESDAY 11th FEB

- 1745 S. S. CAPE TOWN CASTLE, having requested our position previously, asked permission to steam through the lines, this was approved. Ship was dressed with Red Ensigns at both Mastheads and Passengers Cheered Their Majesties on passing and . . . sounded an alarm.

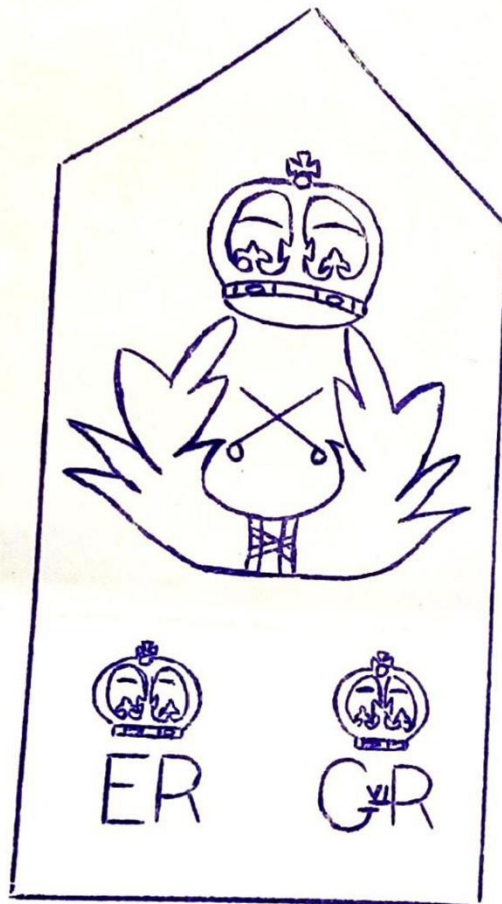
SUNDAY 16th.

- 1100.. H.M. PHOS, NEMEL and ACTON joined escort. On meeting, fired Royal Salute, and Dressed with M.H. Flags with 1st Gun. Ship's Companies Massed to Cheer Ship.

MONDAY 17th.

- 0630.. H.M.S.A.S. GOOD HOPE, NATAL, and TRAMVAAL, arrived and took up station 1 mile ahead of VANGUARD in line abreast 6 cables apart (Dressed with S.A. Ensign at M.H. and Staff and S.A. Jack at Jackstaff when in station).
- 0740.. NIGERIA, NEMEL and ACTON parted company (No ceremony). S.A.S. Frigate steamed past and Observed Ship.
- 0815.. Embarked Pilot. Paraded Guard and Band.
- 0910.. Secured alongside. VANGUARD Dressed overall.
- 0940.. Governor General (The Right Hon VAN ZYL) and General Smuts came on board. Alert. Guard and Band. 1st 6 Bars of National Anthem followed by DIE STEM (S.A. National Anthem in full). Received by H.M.'s tribute. who presented Captain AGNEW and thence to Royal Apartments. Guard not inspected.
- 0955.. Governor General and Party left ship. (No ceremony, except for Alert).
- 1000.. KING left Royal Apartments (WHITE UNIFORM, NEGATIVE SWORD). Royal Guard on Quarter Deck present arms. Band played GOD SAVE THE KING. H.M. inspects Guard. Piped over the Side. As H.M. stepped ashore Royal Standard, Lord High Admiral and Union Flags hauled down, (VANGUARD hoisted M.H. Ensigns). Local Battery fired Royal Salute and with 1st Gun, Royal Standard broken at Government House. Naval Guard of Honour on Jetty presented Arms and Military Band played GOD SAVE THE KING and DIE STEM. H.M. then inspected Royal Guard and in completion gave tribute to Government House.

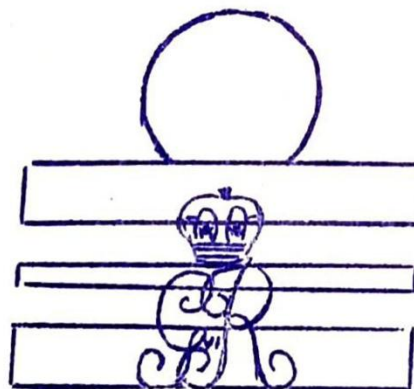
NOTES. VANGUARD did not fire Royal Salute. The authorities requested this as horses of M.H. on Jetty were not trained for Gunfire. H.M. embarked and disembarked in all, 4 times from VANGUARD, and ship has not yet fired Royal Salute.



H.M. The King's Shoulder  
Badge in White Uniform.

"ER" below the Crown  
signifies that King  
George VI was A.D.C. to  
King Edward VIII.

Each reigning Sovereign  
wears a similar  
inscription signifying  
he was A.D.C. to his  
Predecessor.



Shoulder Badge of the  
Naval Equerry (Lt Comdr  
ASHMORE)

# "DISTRIBUTION OF ROYAL TRAFFIC."

- 1..... Royal Cypher Office under supervision of Mr Payne (Royal Staff-- Member of the Foreign Office) with 2 P.O. Tels (Specially Trained) deal entirely with Royal Traffic, Code and Cypher "IN" and "OUT", t
- 2..... "IN" Cypher and Codes to Royal Cypher Office who are responsible for decyphering, distributing, and logging (carefully distinguished by indicators).  
"OUT" Cypher and Codes to Royal Cypher Office for Cyphering etc, the to S.D.O. (for DTG) and to B.R.R. for transmission (Aquadint chits used both by S.D.O. and B.R.R.)  
"IN" P/L ~~with~~ (V/S & W/T) to S.D.O. .. Distribute to Naval squerry (Lt Cdr Ashmore) Press Secretary (Capt (S) Liddle) and copy for Royal Cypher office for necessary action and logging. Royal Cypher office is responsible for Private Secretaries traffic mainly consisting of final arrangements for various dates of Royal Tour (Addressed to King's private Sec) These are passed to Cypher office for all action, and logging. Greetings from the various commands and ships at sea of different nationalities distributed to Naval squerry, Press Sec, and cypher office (usually replied to by Naval squerry)  
Signals of general information such as concert movements, weather reports and anything of interest to Royal Family, distributed to Press Sec, Naval squerry and cypher office.
- Notes. 1... 1 Ldg hand (Ldg Sig) detailed to attend on Press Sec and Naval squerry.  
2... Royal Cypher office keeps logs of all Royal traffic.  
3... All Greetings - particular attention being paid to all private greetings being replied to.  
4... Encyphered traffic; Ordinary typex machines usually used, but special drums and settings carried (supplied by Royal Cypher Staff)

