

**For Posterity's Sake**

**A Royal Canadian Navy Historical Project**

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**Diary / notes during HMCS MAGNIFICENT'S 1953 cruise  
for the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

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**From the collection of Ian Oswald**

**Courtesy of Cathy Oswald**



CANADA



# NOTEBOOK



P.P. & S. CAT. No. 3012

*Coronation Cruise*

*May 7th 12*

NAME

*Jan Oswald*

DEPARTMENT

*H.M.C.S. MAGNIFICENT*

BRANCH

*Mess. G 3A.*



7 May (53)

Thur. 7th.

Left Halifax at 1030 in company with Ontario Quebec and Sioux. Ran into fog so there was no flying to day.

Fri 8th

No flying because it's still foggy. Lancaster patrol aircraft have been flying over us. Went up to flight deck but we got a stand down. Put the clocks ahead one hour.

Sat 9th

It was still foggy this

morning but it cleared up at noon and we went to flying stations at 1500. When the Avengers went up they found the ceiling too low so they landed on again. We secured at 1900. The commander told us today that we have been doing exercises with the Air Force for the last two days so that explains the Lancasters. We are now

in the Gulf Stream not far from Newfoundland.

Sarcastic. We are now

in the Gulf Stream not  
far from Newfoundland.  
Sun 10th.

We had divisions and  
church service ~~of~~ on the  
flight deck this morn-  
ing. At 1230 we went to  
flying stations and did  
not secure until 2000.  
It was a beautiful day and  
I got a real wind burn  
on my face.

At 2200 we were  
called back up to the f.d.  
to put more lashings on.  
Theres a storm brewing

Mon 11th

Got up at 0430 to go to flying stations but the storm was still blowing so we got a pipe down the rest of the day. Put the clocks ahead <sup>one hour</sup> again last night.

Tue. 12th.

Went to flying stations at 1500 and returned at 2130. We had one barrier

crash to-day - it was a

sure. Putting the clocks

ahead one hour to night

Now we are on G.M.T.

Wed 13th

Wed 13th

Flying stations at five  
A.M. Rain at noon so we  
got a pipe down.

P.S. We got paid.

Thur. 14th

We were up at four A.M. today  
and sent furries up to  
intercept some British aircraft  
that were supposed to attack  
us. It fogged in at noon  
so all our aircraft were  
grounded but at one thirty  
(1.30) several sea vamps  
and some attackers land  
latter on several fire flies.

I'm duty to-day so I guess it means a middie watch on the f.d. Its raining now and will be I guess the rest of the night. We are putting the clocks ahead another hour to-night.

Fri 15

Arrived and anchored in Portsmouth harbour this morning. It was raining and foggy and in general a poor day. I stood in line three hours to get ashore as there was a



shortage of liberty boats.  
I set foot on Englands  
soil for the first time  
at: 1615 (4:15 PM) May 15 - 1953.  
Portsmouth is a very  
nice place and is  
strictly a service town.  
I saw a lot of buildings  
that were bombed  
during the war. Saw  
a three wheel car and  
those <sup>city</sup> busses sure look  
queer. Went to the Naafy club  
in the evening and sure  
had fun singing all  
the old British songs.

Sat. 16

Its been very nice to-day  
but there still having  
trouble with the liberty  
boats. I was going to go  
ashore to night but changed  
my mind after looking at  
the line up.

Sun 17

Went ashore and out to  
South Sea Pier. Its a  
very nice beach about  
two miles long with  
concessions selling every  
thing. Went to the MAFFI  
club in the evening and

I've been told I had a very  
a lot.

club in the evening and

I've been told I had a very good time.

Sat Mon. 18.

Left Spithead this morning and we are now ~~doing~~ doing exercises in the English Channel between the Isle of Wight and Lizard's End.

Tue 19.

Flying exercises all day. It's been very nice all day. I went to a band consort ~~on~~ on the forward left to right.

Wed 20th

No flying to-day because of fog. Expecting to run into storm ~~so~~ to-night. Bought tickets for "Royal Tournament" only cost seventy five cents. There for Friday June 12th '53.

Thur 21st.

Nothing exciting happened.

Fri 22nd

Arrived in Torquay Bay just off Torbay Eng which is ~~only~~ a short piece from Plymouth. It's

raining so I didn't go ashore.  
Sat 23rd

from Plymouth. It's

raining so I didn't go ashore.  
Sat 23rd.

Went ashore to-night  
and Torbay really is a  
beautiful town. It's  
called the "Riviera of  
England" and it sure  
lives up to its name.  
It is built on seven  
hills and it's very easy  
to get lost in it. I made  
the rounds to-night  
and ended up at the  
"400" club. Very nice  
people & very nice liquor.  
Oh yes the duty boat

has a bar on it which  
is really very handy.

Sun 24th (Whit Day)

It was a beautiful day  
to-day so I went ashore to  
sight see. I think I walked  
about twenty miles because  
my feet sure feel like it.  
This is the most beautiful  
city I've ever visited and I  
hope some day I can  
come back for a holiday.  
~~Let~~ We made the rounds  
again to-night and ended  
up at the "Banner Cross  
Syn." I guess we really raised  
hell.

Mon 25th.

hell.

Mon 25th.

Pulled out of Torbay this morning and went to flying stations. We had one barrier crash to-day and that was all the excitement we had. Oh yes, we got paid to-night.

Tue 26th

We flew all day to-day and did night D.K.T's. Met + passed "USS United States". Boy she sure is a big ship. No prangs to-day. Furrer went ashore to see this after noon.

Wed 27th

Arrived back in Portemouth to-day and anchored in Spithead harbour. The remainder of the air craft flew ashore to Lee-on-Solent this morning.

Thu. 28th.

Started scraping and painting ship for review. Went ashore and got three T.V. sets for the ship.

Fri. 29th. (MAY 53)

Started 48hr. leave at 1600 to-day. Took the 5:20 train



to-day. Took the 5:20 train

to London arriving there  
about 7 in the evening. Got  
a room at the Union Jack  
for 3/ for two nights.

From then until Sunday  
night at 9 o'clock when  
we caught a train back  
we traveled at a great rate  
and saw many things. The  
most prominent were:

Broadcasting House (BBC) -  
Buckingham Palace - Clarence  
House - County Hall - #10  
Downing Street - Hyde Park -  
Kensington Gardens - Leicester  
Square - Marlborough House

The Monument - House of  
Parliament - Piccadilly  
Circus (Cross) ??? - Regent  
Park - Queen Mary Gardens -  
St James Park - St James  
Palace - Tower of London  
Trafalgar Square - Nelsons  
Column - Westminster  
Abbey - Zoological Gardens  
and many many other  
places. This has been  
one trip I won't forget  
for a long time

Mon 1st (JUNE 53)

Back to the old grind  
to-day with no excitement.

Tue 2nd (Continuation)

Mon 1st (JUNE 53)

Back to the old grind  
to-day with no excitement.

Tue 2nd (Coronation)

Spent a very quiet  
day on board. The  
T.V. sets wouldn't  
work so we listened  
to the procedure on the  
radio. They replaced  
the mainbrace to-day  
much to the delight  
of everyone.

Wed 3rd

We are still busy  
painting the ship.

Thu 4th  
Paint

Fri 5th

Paint. Moved to "C lock"

Sat 6th  
Paint

Sun 7th

Divisions in the morning and sunbathing in the afternoon.

Mon 8th

Moved out of Portsmouth this afternoon and to-night we are anchored just outside the gates to the harbour. It's been a beautiful day.

Tue 9th

To-day we came back into Spithead and we

are now anchored in our position for the

To-day we came back  
into Spithead and we

are now anchored in  
our position for the  
Review (Between HM175  
Sidney and HMS Theseus)  
There are quite a few  
ships in now and  
more will be coming  
in to-day.

Wed 10th

Today is HRH the Duke  
of Edinburgh's birthday  
so we had divisions  
and fired a 21 gun  
salute along with every  
other ship here at Spithead.  
USS United States sailed past

us again to day. The  
Italian sailing ship is  
anchored to our port  
side - she sure is a  
beauty. (3 mast).

Thur. 11th.

Queens birthday so  
we went through the  
same routine as  
yesterday.

Fri. 12th

Went to London to-day  
to see the Royal Turn-  
ment at Ears Court.  
A wonderful show.

Sat. 13th

A wonderful show.

Sat. 13th

Paint, spit and  
polish.

Sun 14th

Divisions and church  
service this morning  
and paint, spit and  
polish in the afternoon.

Mon 15th

"Spithead Review"

Tue 16th

Most of the ships that  
took part in the Review  
have hoisted anchor  
and left the harbour.

30th CAH are coming  
aboard to-night and  
we are supposed to  
leave for Halifax at  
0800 to-morrow.

Wed 17th

Left Spithead in company  
with Quebec, Swase, Sioux  
La Nallose and HMAS Sidney.  
Went to flying stations at  
1030 & secured at 1700. Put  
the clocks back one hour.

Thur 18th

Went to flying stations at  
five this morning. Flew  
all day but secured early

because of rain & low sea



five into the morning. I was  
all day but secured early

because of rain & fog. One  
avenger got lost and when  
he finally landed on he  
only had fuel left for  
three minutes flying.

~ Fri 19th (Put docks back one hour)

Flying stations at  
four this morning —  
secured at twelve  
because of rough seas.  
I was duty from 0000 to  
0200 and at that time  
it got very rough.

Sat 20th

Up at four this morning  
but at four thirty flying

stations were cancelled.

Our watch went up on  
watch then and we  
stayed there until  
noon because it was  
blowing something  
terrific. The Souix was  
visible only half the  
time - the remainder  
of the time she was  
under water. I think  
we are going south  
now + looking for  
better flying weather.

Sun 21st.

First day of summer

First day of summer

and its storming like  
like noones business.  
The waves have been  
breaking right over  
the flight deck and  
the cable deck is compl-  
eatly awash. Our menu  
for to-day was as  
follows: Breakfast -  
2 boiled eggs - 2 pieces of  
bread and coffee.  
Dinner - 2 balcony sandw-  
itches - soup and coffee.  
Supper - 1 tin of beans -  
2 pieces of bread - soup  
and coffee.

The tables and benches  
in the cafeteria were  
all broken from sliding  
around and so all  
meals were eaten in  
the mess decks. A seven  
man team was required  
on deck to watch the  
air craft at all times.  
I didn't think the ship  
could go so far over with-  
out rolling compleat-  
ly.

Mon 22nd

Still storming but  
we managed to eat

in the cafeteria

Wed 24th

An aircraft from Shearwater landed/aboard to-day with some mail. I got two letters (Bonff + Grenville). C176 are supposed to fly off for CHANAS at 1700 P.S. They did.

Thu 25th

Made our grand entrance to-day at 1430 with bands playing and thousands of people cheering on the jetty. It was a beautiful day - a beautiful show, ending the 1953 Coronation Cruise.

June 25/53