

Royalty at Rochester. First Lord at Chatham



THE MAYOR OF ROCHESTER (Councillor C. Sherwin Knight) welcoming the King, on his arrival at Messrs. Short's Works, at Rochester, when paying a visit of inspection with the Queen, on Tuesday. Her Majesty is seen on the right just emerging from the car.



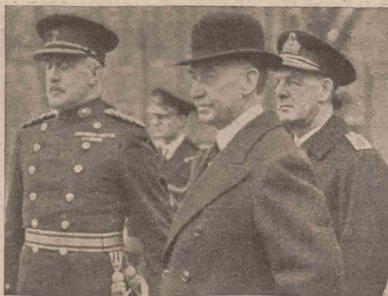
A SECTION OF THE HAPPY CROWD which cheered Their Majesties as they passed from Star-hill into City Way, when proceeding to Messrs. Short's new factory at Rochester Aerodrome.



MR. H. OSWALD SHORT, Chairman of the Directors of Messrs. Short Brothers, leaving the Drawing Office with Their Majesties when preceding on their tour of inspection of the Works.



THE MAYOR had a few words to say to the first lady drivers of the ambulance (Mrs. E. A. Eastwood and Miss M. Freestone) at the A.R.P. Parade, on Saturday.



THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY watching a squad of recruits on the parade ground of the Royal Marine Barracks, in company with the Commander-in-Chief, the Nore (Vice-Admiral Sir H. J. Stidholme Brownrigg), and the Colonel Commandant of the Chatham Division, Royal Marines (Brigadier A. L. Forster).



THE MAYOR OF ROCHESTER (Councillor Cyril S. Knight) inspected Rochester's Auxiliary Fire Service on Saturday afternoon, and watched it at work on the Esplanade. He is seen inspecting the ladder squad, led by Foreman C. Atkinson.



THE SIX PUMPS of the Rochester A.R.P. Fire Squad, which were on parade, on Saturday, are seen playing their twenty hoses over the river from the Esplanade.



THE PICTURE shows Skipper Leslie Hunt (seated) telling "Sailors Yarns" to his wife and Mr. and Mrs. A. Booty—all attentive listeners.



EARL STANHOPE, First Lord of the Admiralty, inspecting the guard of honour on the Parade Ground of the Royal Marine Barracks, on the occasion of his first visit to the naval establishments at Chatham, on Tuesday.



ENTER THE PEERS during the performance of the Opera, "Iolanthe," by the Chatham Amateur Operatic Society, at the Globe Theatre, Chatham, this week.

SAVED FROM SINKING BARGE

Gillingham Captain and Mate Have Narrow Escape.

Two Gillingham men have been thanking their lucky stars, this week, that they are still in the land of the living. Back home with their wives and friends at God's-hill, after being rescued in the nick of time from a sinking ship, are Mr. Leslie Hunt, 28-year-old barge captain, and his mate—Mr. Albert Booty, who is in his 7th year, but doesn't look it. On Wednesday in last week's terrific storm look toll of shipping everywhere. Out in the North Sea, on that fatal day, the barge Gannet was waving her last fight against wind and waves—two unrelenting foes—and on board were Mr. Hunt, her skipper, and Mr. Booty, the mate. Loaded with a cargo of quarry stone from Maidstone, the Gannet had been brought down the Medway and was proceeding to Dean Hall, her destination on the Essex coast, when a westerly gale of countenance force sprang up, and she encountered ferociously heavy seas about twelve or fourteen miles from land. Waves twelve feet high swamped decks and cabin, and dismantled the gear. For hours, skipper and mate, numb with cold, braved, waist high in water, fought valiantly to keep the old barge afloat. Exhausted and almost at the end of their tether, they had resigned themselves to what seemed to be inevitable when a fishing trawler bore into sight and they signalled their distress. The trawler came alongside only just in time, for but a few minutes after Mr. Hunt and Mr. Booty had been taken on board, the Gannet sank. It took the trawler four hours to reach the coast, but eventually both men were landed at West Mersea—there to recover from the shock of their ordeal before returning home to Gillingham. When a "Chatham News" reporter called to see Skipper Hunt this week at his comfortable home at 14, God's-hill, his wife and he both had interesting experiences to relate of adventures at sea. Mrs. Hunt had come to require the Gannet as her second home. She had spent many happy days as well as exciting hours on board as "Skipper's mate," and she spoke with regret at the fact that her trips on the Gannet had ended. One of the stormiest trips Mrs. Hunt ever experienced was in December, 1937, when her husband and she had a narrow escape as they were making for Pagglesham in Essex. They spent three days and nights tossed about in heavy seas, and were eventually rescued by the Southern Cross just as their barge seemed on the point of "breaking her back." Last week-end, Mr. Hunt and Mr. Booty received numerous congratulations from their many friends on their narrow escape, and they were occasional "celebrities" at the old Ship Inn where they are among the most popular of the "God's-hill boys." Both made light of their ordeal, and one might have gathered, in course of conversation with them, that their deepest regret was the fact that their fine stock of provisions, which they had on board, as well as a wireless set and two dart boards, were lying on the ocean bed—or as they put it "down among the mermaids." Who knows but that the mermaids are now listening-in or playing a game of a hundred on one up? Mr. Booty, who lives at 24, God's-hill, treasure a Bronze medal for life-saving, which was presented to him by the Commandant-in-Chief, the Nore, in 1936.

FOUR GENERATIONS—Mr. W. W. Turner (11), of 24, Hall-avenue, Chatham, who died last week, photographed with his eldest daughter (Mrs. Gouge, of 12, Charter-street, Gillingham), grand-daughter (Mrs. C. Harris, of Snodland), and great-grandson, C. Harris.

LOCAL CHOIR'S SUCCESSES.

Mr. Leslie Mackay's Entry Gains Two First Places.

Competing in the Hastings Musical Festival at the Pier Pavilion, Hastings, on Saturday, Mr. Leslie Mackay's Choir gained first places in the two sections for which it entered. The competition in the two classes was small, the only other entrants being the Wells Singers (Dumfriesshire), but the Chatham choir gained a very high percentage for all its test pieces. In the Ladies' Choirs section (not less than 25 voices) for the Silver Challenge Cup, the test pieces were "All creatures now," by Bennett, and "Butterfly," by Schumann (arr. by Maurice Jacobson). Mr. Mackay's Choir scored 170 points in this class against their opponents' 164. Commenting the Judge (Mr. C. Kennedy South) said that the rendering of the first piece had excellent quality and possessed movement, yet was "leisurely because of its ease. There was real phrasing in the second, notes were not taken at their face but with all sorts of little shadings were put in which vitalised the singing and gave it continuous interest. In the Mixed Voice Choirs section for the Cecilia Challenge Shield, the Chatham choir was awarded 169 points—5 more than the Wells Singers—for the piece—"It was a lover and his lass" (Warrell). "Troyes, sleepless hour" (Bennet). Of the piece by Warrell, Mr. Kennedy South said that it had a singing-like freshness, although at times it became unsteady weighty. The general rhythmic feeling was full of life, and the parts of the mixed were well phrased and held. It was a very good choir.