

## THE CORONATION

Points from a Speech by the Earl Marshal, the Duke of Norfolk,  
to the Press at Church House, Westminster, on Tuesday, 3rd March.

1. Many details of the Coronation still have to be completed and all the times must be regarded as provisional. It must be remembered that the liturgy of the Coronation Service in the Abbey, which is the core of the whole thing, is the province of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Order of Service which has yet to be approved by the Queen may not be available for publication until the middle of April and it is not possible to deal with questions on that subject.
2. The Gold Staff Officers for duty as ushers in the Abbey on June 2nd have been selected from the Armed Services, the Civil Service, the Commonwealth and the Colonies. They will be on duty in the Abbey from 6 a.m. and will usher guests to their seats - assist in marshalling the processions in the Abbey - give assistance where necessary - arrange at the termination of the ceremony that guests leave their seats at the correct time. They will be under the command of Major General R.G. Feilden, C.B., C.B.E., Chief Gold Staff Officer, assisted by Major General Sir John Marriott, K.C.V.O., Deputy Chief Gold Staff Officer.
3. By 8.30 a.m. the lining of the route (with troops) from Buckingham Palace to the Abbey will have been finished, the guests will have taken their seats, and all last minute preparations to receive the processions at the Abbey will have been completed. Broadcasting begins at 10.15 a.m. and continues until 5 p.m.

### Processions to the Abbey

4. There are to be nine processions to Westminster Abbey and they are in the following order:-
  1. The Lord Mayor of London comes from the Mansion House in his Coach with the Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sword Bearer and the Common Crier, arriving at the Annexe at 8.45 a.m.
  2. The car procession of certain members of the Royal Family is timed to leave Buckingham Palace at 8.40 a.m. and should arrive at the Abbey at 8.55 a.m.
  3. The car procession of Royal and other representatives of Foreign states, will leave St. James' Palace at 8.50 a.m. to arrive at 9 a.m. This is a very large contingent and may consist of as many as 70 or 80 cars.
  4. Then will come carriages in which will ride the Queen of Tonga and the Sultans of Zanzibar, Johore, Selangor, Kalantan, Perak, Brunei and Lahej. They will leave Buckingham Palace at 9.15 a.m. and arrive at the Annexe at 9.35 a.m.

/5. The procession

5. The procession of the Prime Ministers sets out from Buckingham Palace at 9.20 a.m. There will be nine carriages in this procession, to consist of the Prime Ministers of Northern Ireland, Southern Rhodesia, Ceylon, Pakistan, India, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and finally, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. It will arrive at 9.40 a.m.
6. The procession of the Speaker of the House of Commons, who will go in his Coach from the House of Commons direct to the Abbey at 9.30 a.m., a traditional short journey which takes only a minute or two.
7. The Procession of the Princes and Princesses of the Blood Royal. The Princess Royal, the Duchess of Gloucester, together with Prince William and Prince Richard, travel in the first carriage of this procession; the Duchess of Kent with the Duke of Kent, Princess Alexandra and Prince Michael in the second carriage; and Lady Patricia Ramsay, Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone; the Earl of Athlone, and Princess Marie Louise in the third carriage. They leave Buckingham Palace at 9.40 a.m. arriving at the Abbey at 10.14 a.m.
8. The procession of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, who is to be accompanied in her carriage by Princess Margaret. They are due to leave Clarence House at 10 a.m. and reach the entrance to the Abbey Annex at 10.32 a.m.
9. The last of these carriage processions to the Abbey is that of the Queen herself. Her Majesty will be preceded by over 1,000 Guardsmen and the King's troop, Royal Horse Artillery, behind whom will come the Chaplains, Honorary Chaplains, Honorary Physicians and Surgeons, and As.D.C. of the Armed Services, members of the staff of the Admiralty, War Office, and Air Ministry, Senior Officers of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth, Commanders-in-Chief, Air A.D.C. and As.D.C. General, Admirals of the Fleet, Field Marshals and Marshals of the Royal Air Force, Chiefs of Staff of the United Kingdom, members of the Board of Admiralty, the Army Council and the Air Council. Then come Yeomen of the Guard, the Queen's Bargemaster and Watermen, and, behind, the band of the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues), two Divisions of the Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry, followed by the Deputy Commander of Coronation Troops, Major General J.A. Gascoigne, G.O.C., London District, and the Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis, Sir Harold Scott, who will be on horseback. Then comes the Queen in the State Coach, to be drawn by eight Greys. Her Majesty will be in her traditional Parliament Robe of crimson velvet furred with ermine, and wearing on her head a diadem. With her, in the State Coach, sitting on her left, will be the Duke of Edinburgh in the full-dress uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet.

/Immediately



Immediately behind the Coach, riding on horseback, comes the Lord High Constable, Field Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke, whom the Queen has chosen to command the Coronation Troops; The Master of the Horse, the Duke of Beaufort; Gold Stick in Waiting, Major General Sir Richard Howard-Vyse; the Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, the Earl of Onslow; the Field Officer in Brigade Waiting, Colonel T.F.C. Winnington; and Silver Stick in Waiting, Colonel E.J.S. Ward. Then follows the Standard, and riding immediately behind it, as Personal Aides de Camp to the Queen, the Duke of Gloucester and Earl Mountbatten of Burma. Behind them come the principal Services Aides de Camp, The Equerries to the Queen, Staff Officers of London District and the Household Brigade, members of the Queen's Suite in carriages, and the Third and Fourth Divisions of the Sovereign's Escort.

#### The Annexe

5. While the procession of Her Majesty is on the way to the Abbey, those taking part in the indoor procession to the Altar form up under the Earl Marshal's direction in the large assembly room in the Annexe called the Vestibule to await the Queen's arrival. It is proposed, as in 1937, to carry the lighter blue carpet from the Nave right through the Vestibule out to the Royal Entrance as a floor covering. The colour schemes for the walls and ceiling are to take up the background colour from the curtain fabric covering the entrance doors along the North wall of the Vestibule and a scheme of gold and ivory will give the setting for the rich colours of the robes and vestments of those forming the processions. A focal point in the Vestibule will, of course, be the Regalia Table which is to be covered with the gold damask being used on the Royal Boxes within the Theatre, and standing against a backcloth of the largest suitable tapestry which can be procured. Natural lighting for the Vestibule will be obtained from the large semi-transparent window at the west end. Artificial lighting will be given by electric lighting points placed flush with the ceiling. The window panes are to be decorated with a diaper pattern of emblems of the British Isles. Rout seats will be provided within the hall; these will have legs of natural walnut and the seating will be covered with gold fabric. Similar colour schemes are to be carried throughout the Annexe, with the exception that the five Royal Robing Rooms will be carpeted with the gold carpet used in the Theatre.

6. The Dean and Prebendaries of Westminster, the representatives of the Church of Scotland and of the Free Churches, the domestic Chaplains and the Chaplains form up in the Nave in readiness to lead the Procession from the West door. A Guard of Honour of the Queen's Company, Grenadier Guards, is mounted in the Vestibule and the Queen's Company Colour will be posted at the entrance to the Choir. It is the Earl Marshal's privilege and honour to receive the Queen, on her arrival, at the steps of the Annexe, and the Duke of Edinburgh too, who will be with her. In the Entrance Hall of the Annexe she will also be received by the high ceremonial officers, such as those known as the Great Officers of State, and by the Lords who carry the Regalia in the Procession, and by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and by other Bishops assisting in the Service and ceremonies.

The Duke of Gloucester, attended by his page, and the Peers and others arriving with Her Majesty, but who do not take part in the Procession, will be escorted to their seats while the Duke of Edinburgh and the Peers and others coming with the Queen, will take their positions in the Procession which is marshalled in the Vestibule. At about 11.15 the Queen joins this Procession and, entering by the West Door of the Abbey, as the trumpets sound a fanfare, proceeds in State through the Nave and the Choir to her Chair of Estate on the south side of the area near to the Altar while the choristers, under the direction of Dr. William McKie, organist of the Abbey, sing that ancient anthem dating from Stuart times

"I was glad when they said unto me  
We will go into the House of the Lord"

As the Queen enters the Choir, the Queen's Scholars of Westminster School acclaim Her Majesty in the customary manner, chanting their "Vivat".

#### The Crowning

7. The Service is expected to last from about 11.15 a.m. to 1.45 p.m. The supreme moment of the Ceremony is timed to come at about 12.30 p.m. when the Archbishop of Canterbury places St. Edward's Crown on the Queen's head. When the Crown is placed on Her Majesty's head, the whole congregation acclaim this great event by crying "God Save the Queen", and all those who have Coronets or the revived Caps of State, such as Peers and Peeresses, put them on at the same time. There is a massed fanfare of trumpets, and simultaneously the guns at the Tower of London and in Hyde Park fire a royal salute.

8. A plan of the Theatre in the Abbey is attached, showing the approximate positions of the chief participants at the moment of Crowning. It will be seen from the chart that the Queen is to have Maids of Honour instead of Pages to bear her train when she walks within the Abbey, thus following the precedent of Queen Victoria's Coronation. The Queen has appointed six Maids of Honour. They are Lady Rosemary Spencer-Churchill, daughter of the Duke of Marlborough; Lady Moyra Hamilton, daughter of Marquess of Hamilton; Lady Mary Baillie Hamilton, daughter of the Earl of Haddington; Lady Anne Coke, daughter of the Earl of Leicester; Lady Jane Vane-Tempest-Stewart, daughter of the Marquess of Londonderry; and Lady Jane Heathcote-Drummond-Willoughby, daughter of the Earl of Ancaster.

#### The Return Procession

9. After the Procession out, and a short rest and luncheon, Her Majesty, arrayed in her Robe of Purple Velvet, wearing the Imperial Crown, and carrying the Sceptre and the Orb, re-enters her Golden Coach and, with the Duke of Edinburgh, leaves at about 2.50 p.m. to join the waiting procession which has lined up after the Ceremony, and has been taking up those who drive in it since about 2.15 p.m. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh should be back at Buckingham Palace at 4.30 p.m., and they will appear on the balcony of the Palace for the Royal Air Force Fly Past which will take place about 45 minutes after their return. On this return journey, the newly-crowned Queen will be preceded by many thousands of sailors, soldiers, and airmen, including numerous contingents from the Commonwealth and Colonies.

/In all, this .....



In all, this great return procession about two miles long, will take 45 minutes to pass any given point. There will be about 15,000 servicemen lining the route and nearly 10,000 in the actual procession, including 2,500 from the Commonwealth and Colonies, compared with about 1,300 in 1937. In all there will be about 31,000 troops, including nearly 2,000 bandsmen in 46 bands, engaged in the procession, in lining the route, and in reserve.

The United Kingdom is to be represented by units of the three Armed Services, including the Women's Services and the Home Guard, and there will be Scottish and Irish Pipers as well as the bands of Naval, Army and Air Force units. The Commonwealth representation includes contingents from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, Ceylon, and Southern Rhodesia. India will be represented in the procession by her Prime Minister. Canada and New Zealand are sending military bands. Pipers are coming from Pakistan and from the Brigade of Gurkhas. The Colonial contingent will number 500 and will include Service representatives from practically every Colonial territory.

Details of the Procession will be announced very shortly by the Admiralty, War Office and the Air Ministry, on different dates to avoid pressure on Press space.

The first part of this return procession starts to move from Storey's Gate at the end of Birdcage Walk, as soon as the Service ends at 1.45 p.m. By the time the State Coach is ready to move off shortly before 3 o'clock it will extend from East Carriage Drive near Stanhope Gate, right back to the Annexe itself. It is estimated that one hour 40 minutes is needed for the State Coach to travel the 5 miles 250 yards back to Buckingham Palace.

#### Coronation Invitation Card

10. The Queen has approved the design of the invitation card for her guests at the Abbey. Miss Joan Hassall, R.E., the well-known illustrator and wood-engraver, has designed the card, and Mr. S. B. Stead, the official Artist and Scribe of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, is responsible for the lettering. Copies of the card for reproduction purposes are available from Fox Photos, 69-71 Farringdon Street, E.C.1.

Two qualities were sought in the design - dignity for the great occasion and grace for the Queen herself. These have been expressed by Miss Hassall by combining the formal splendour of the Royal Coat of Arms with free-flowing arabesques of flowers associated with the Commonwealth countries.

/ No .....

No particular order of precedence is indicated in the arrangement of the flowers, and to mark this the two sides are not identical. The British Oak Leaf appears several times among the flowers of the garland as a reminder that the symbolism of the Oak is common to British people. A part of the Regalia has been introduced into the design as being appropriate to the occasion, with the Sceptre and Rod integrated into and embraced by the Commonwealth flowers, while the Crown dominates the central group containing the Orb, the Ampulla with its spoon, and two of the Swords.

X The flowers which appear are the Rose, which is associated with England; the Thistle, Scotland; the Leek, Wales; The Shamrock, Northern Ireland; the Maple Leaf, Canada; the Wattle, Australia; the Fern, New Zealand; the Protea, South Africa; the Lotus, India; Cotton, Jute and Wheat, Pakistan; and another Lotus, Ceylon.

The card, which is printed in very dark blue on white, is  $10\frac{1}{2}$  ins. by  $8\frac{3}{4}$  ins. in size and is partly intended as a memento of the occasion.

(Note: Miss Hassall is the daughter of the late John Hassall, the famous poster artist. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers and is well-known as a book illustrator. Proofs of her wood engravings have been acquired for many permanent collections, including those of the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum. She designed the £1 Postage Stamp issued to commemorate the Silver Wedding of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1948.

Miss Hassall lives at 88, Kensington Park Road, London W.11., where she was born in 1906 and where she uses the studio in which her father worked for 50 years. Her brother, Christopher Hassall, the poet, has written a religious play "Out of the Whirlwind" which is to be produced in Westminster Abbey after the Coronation. Miss Hassall's telephone number is Park 5826.)

11. The Earl Marshal also said:

"I cannot let this occasion pass without mentioning the close personal interest taken by the Queen herself in all this. No one has a more exacting or difficult role to play than Her Majesty and no one is more anxious that all the arrangements for this great occasion should be, so far as is humanly possible, flawless.

"Finally, I should like to express my appreciation of the way in which the Press have helped us in our job. I have read most of the articles and reports which have so far been published, and I am much impressed by the way in which, with very few exceptions, they combine accuracy, dignity and popular appeal - not always an easy combination to bring about."

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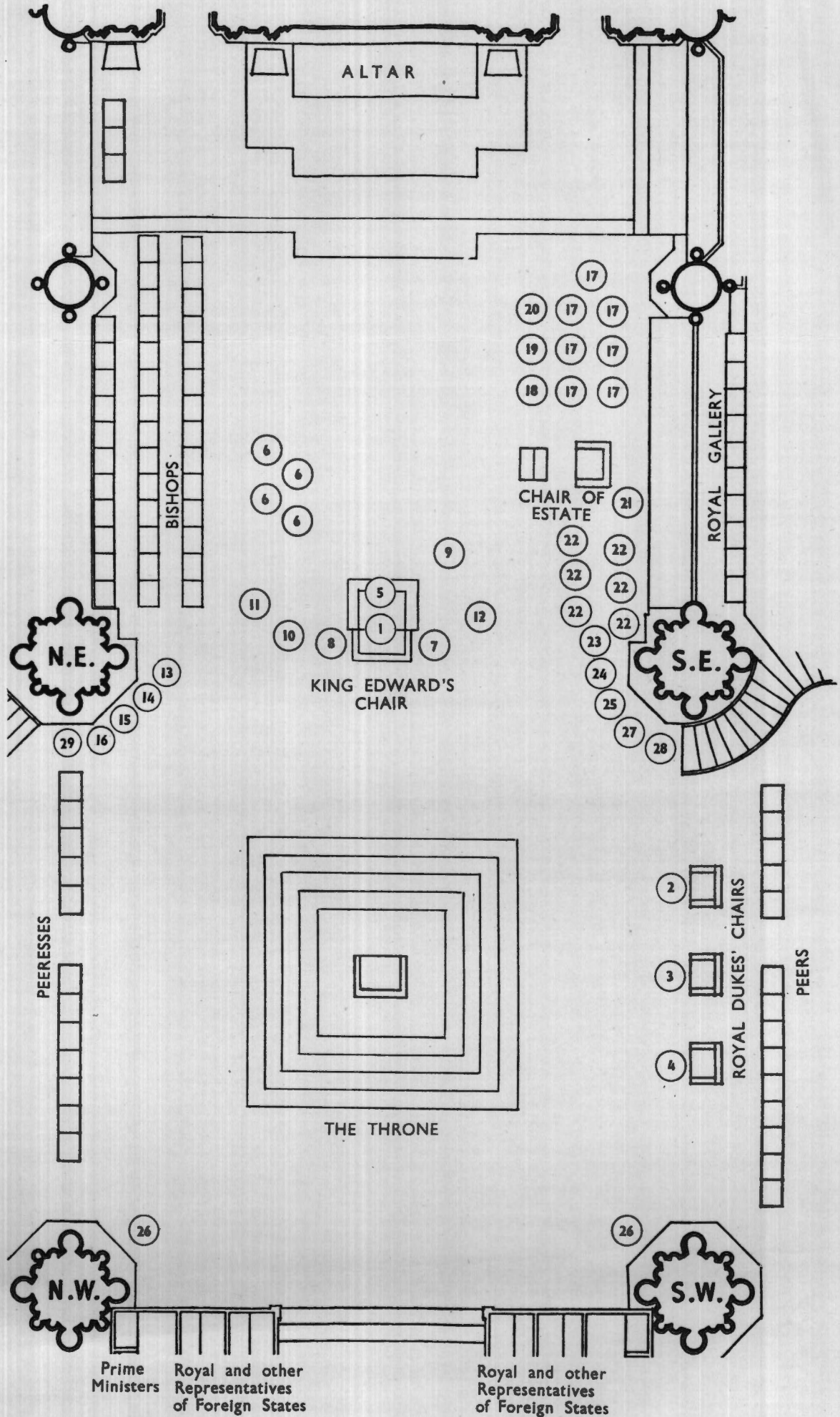
EARL MARSHAL'S PRESS BUREAU,

11, BELGRAVE SQUARE, S.W.1.

3RD MARCH, 1953



PLAN OF THE THEATRE OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY  
POSITIONS AT THE MOMENT OF CROWNING



- |  |                            |                                  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. The Queen                                   | 8. Bishop of Bath & Wells  | 15. Lord High Chancellor         | 22. Maids of Honour              |
| 2. Duke of Edinburgh                           | 9. Dean of Westminster     | 16. Lord Privy Seal              | 23. Garter King of Arms          |
| 3. Duke of Gloucester                          | 10. Lord Great Chamberlain | 17. Lords Bearers of the Regalia | 24. Black Rod                    |
| 4. Duke of Kent                                | 11. Lord Chamberlain       | 18. Curtana, Sword of Mercy      | 25. Lord Mayor of London         |
| 5. Archbishop of Canterbury                    | 12. Sword of State         | 19. Sword of Spiritual Justice   | 26. Heralds                      |
| 6. Archbishop of York and<br>Bishops Assistant | 13. Lord High Constable    | 20. Sword of Temporal Justice    | 27. Lyon King of Arms (Scotland) |
| 7. Bishop of Durham                            | 14. Earl Marshal           | 21. Mistress of the Robes        | 28. Norroy & Ulster King of Arms |
|  |                            |                                  | 29. Clarenceux King of Arms      |