

LONDON WELCOMES AJAX AND EXETER.

They marched from Waterloo to Horse Guards Parade --- H.M.S. Ajax leading; then H.M.S. EXETER ~~numbered~~

The great procession of 760 officers and men ; crews of the two Mother Country Cruisers who won the battle of the River Plate.

At the same time the New Zealand cruiser Achilles was receiving ~~in Auckland,~~ ~~in her home port~~ on the other side of the world, her share of an Empire's gratitude. The great march halted at the Horse Guards Parade for review by ~~His Majesty~~ the King. His Majesty was there with Queen Elizabeth and members of the Cabinet.

First of all --- the inspection..... the King's expression of that pride that we all feel in these indomitable representatives of ~~the~~ our Navy.

To-day's rejoicings have also --- alas --- their tragedy. For among these heroes are the relatives of those gallant men who gave their lives as part of the price of victory.

Now --- the investiture. Those whose outstanding courage had earned ~~them~~ special recognition were decorated by the King.

Ships' officers ~~and~~ Ratings ~~and~~. An R.A.F. corporal on board to look after the cruiser's catapult plane. And a relative of one of the fallen. Then --- the march past, ~~led by~~ *led by the band of the Royal Marines*

~~Then~~ they march on towards the city for the reception and ~~luncheon~~ ~~at the Guildhall~~ ~~headed by the band of the Royal Marines~~

Ajax and Exeter march past Nelson's column --- and the crowd roars.

From the Embankment they come at last to the Guildhall, where the crowd almost scuttle the policemen.

The crowd roars as they march on towards the City, for the reception + luncheon at the Guildhall.

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Inside the great banqueting Hall of the mightiest city ~~of~~ in the world there have been many great gatherings --- but never have there been more honoured guests. ~~The Lord Mayor proposes the toast.~~

First speaker to reply is Captain Woodhouse of the Ajax. ~~Then a few words from Captain Bell of Exeter. And the first land of~~

Then Captain Bell ~~of Exeter~~ ~~of Exeter~~ of the modesty of what Exeter's crew had done.

And the first hand of the Admiralty

Good on heat.