

TRAFALGAR DAY.

On this day, 150 years ago, Horatio Nelson, Britain's greatest admiral, died at the moment of his greatest triumph. From the deck of the "Victory", he smashed Napoleon's dream of conquering Europe; on that deck he died. His statue looks down on a land that honours him, not merely as the winner of a battle, but as a creator of a Navy which still lives, fights and wins by his traditions.

The Duke of Edinburgh, himself a sailor tried in battle, leads the nation's homage at Nelson's monument.

A quarter of a mile away, in Carlton Gardens, tribute is paid to another fighting sailor, a Sub-Lieutenant of the Battle of Jutland who became King George the Sixth of England. The Queen Mother and Princess Margaret are present for the unveiling of his statue, which is to be performed by his daughter and successor, Queen Elizabeth the Second.

It was Sir Winston Churchill who proposed, three years ago, that a National Memorial to King George the Sixth be established. "First of all", he said, "we must raise a statue in London to carry to the living generation and to those who come after us a physical presence of the King. This is our first task".

Today that task is accomplished. The Queen reveals the statue of her father - a man who, in her own words, "expected to support the throne rather than to fill it. But the unsparring devotion which he gave to his duties as Duke of York enabled him to assume with resolution, the burden of sovereignty".

Thus, on Nelson's Day, we honour a sailor King who like his father, upheld the Nelson tradition.

Rarely, if ever, has Trafalgar Day been so splendidly celebrated. And it ends as splendidly as it began, when the Queen and the Duke dine with the Lords of the Admiralty in the Painted Hall of the Royal College at Greenwich.

On either side of the Queen are the First Lord of the Admiralty Mr. J.P.L. Thomas, and Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, the First Sea Lord. Sir Anthony Eden is also present to hear Her Majesty address the men who command her Navy: